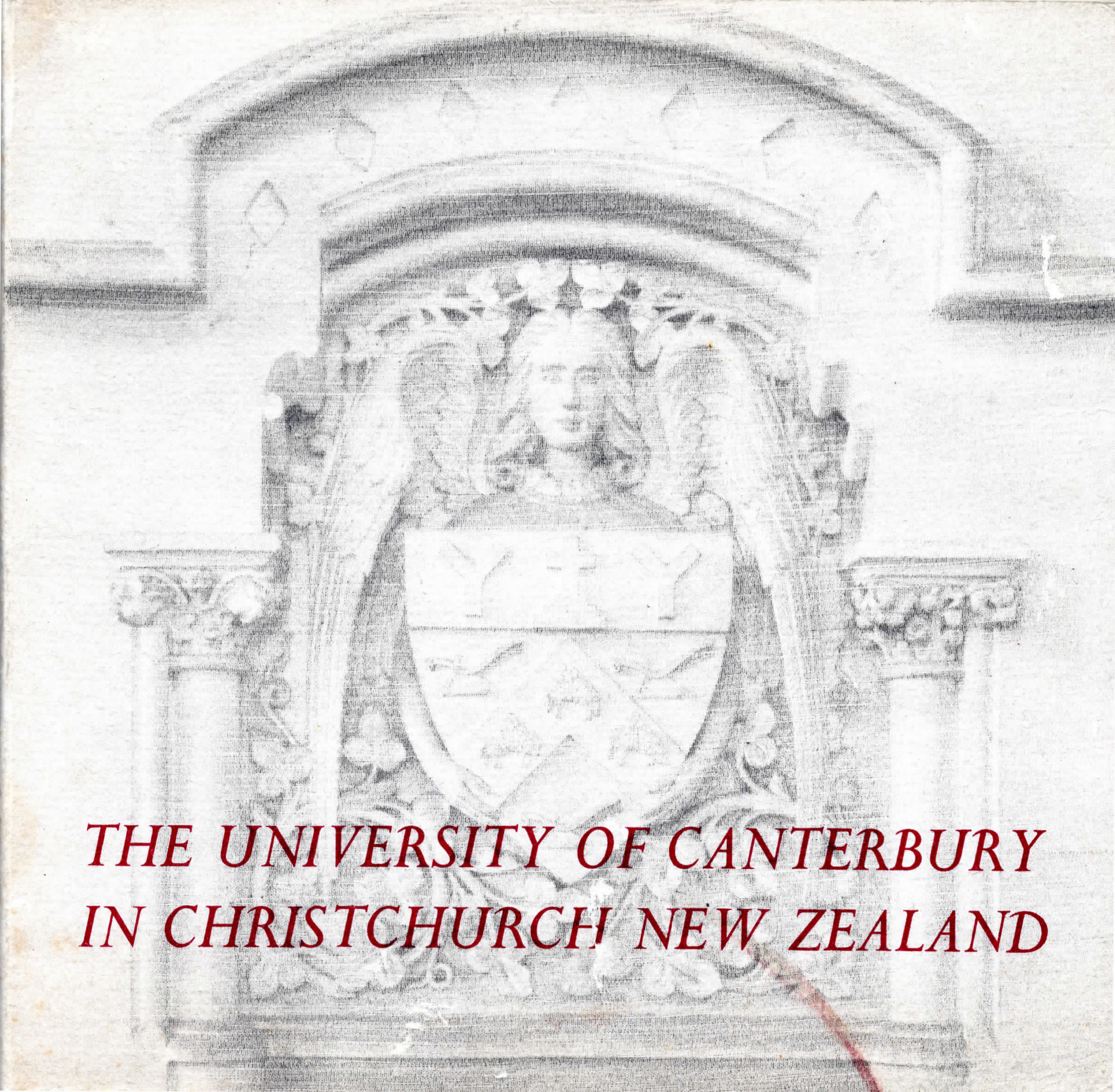
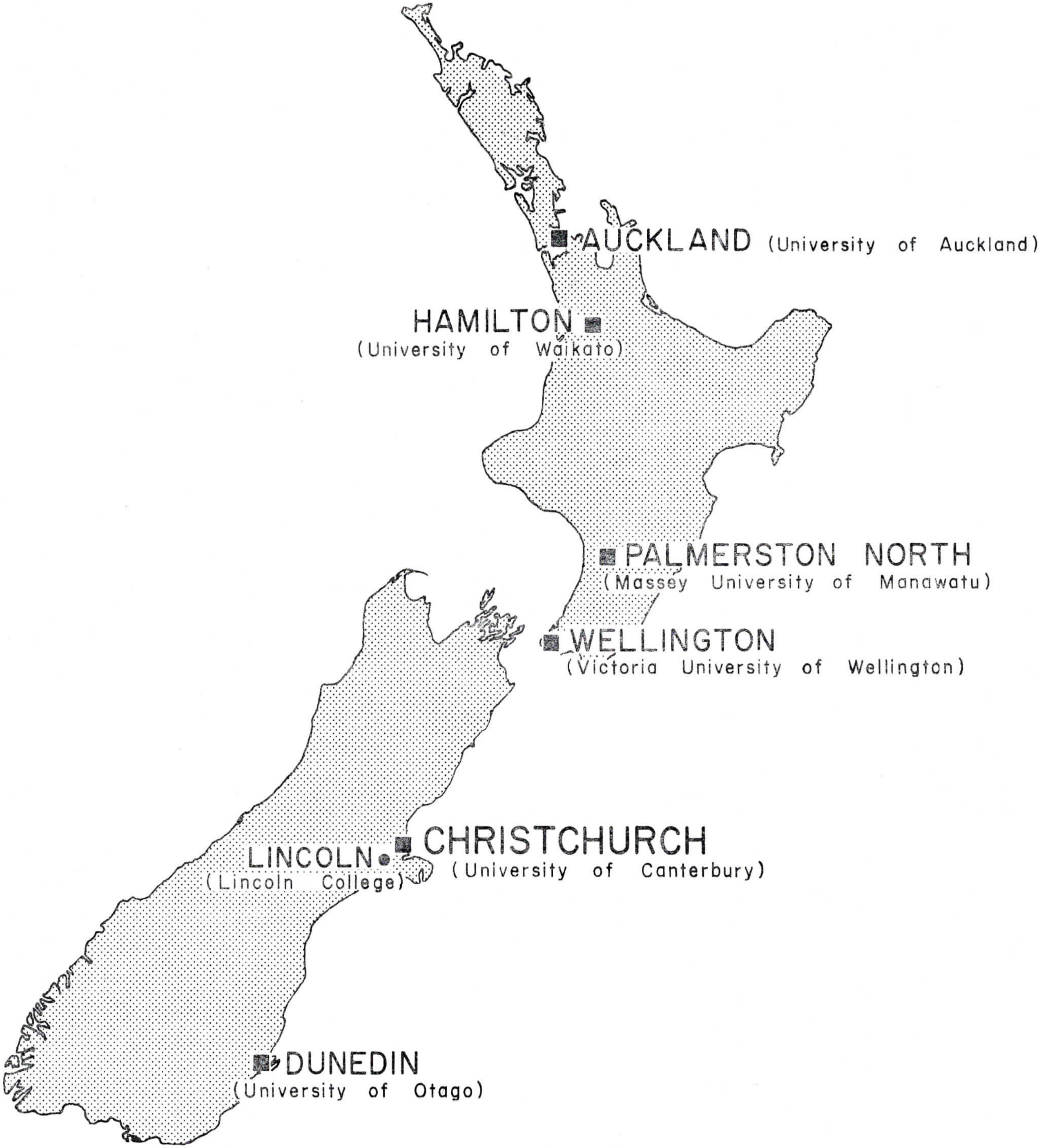


THE UNIVERSITY OF CANTERBURY
IN CHRISTCHURCH NEW ZEALAND

THE UNIVERSITY OF CANTERBURY IN CHRISTCHURCH NEW ZEALAND

A Brochure Prepared For Prospective Staff and Their Families


AUCKLAND (University of Auckland)
HAMILTON (University of Waikato)
PALMERSTON NORTH (Massey University of Manawatu)
WELLINGTON (Victoria University of Wellington)
CHRISTCHURCH (University of Canterbury)
LINCOLN (Lincoln College)
DUNEDIN (University of Otago)

FOREWORD

The rapid development of an institution such as the University of Canterbury inevitably outpaces the printed word. In its revised edition this brochure is temporarily brought up to date, but its purpose remains unchanged. It tries to answer, by word and illustration, some of the questions likely to be asked by strangers to New Zealand who contemplate joining the academic staff of this University.

While scholars will first be concerned with the conditions of scholarship, they will want to know not only what the University has to offer and demand but also how life is lived in Christchurch. The pages that follow therefore are addressed as much to families as to their breadwinners; and besides degree structures, library facilities and the like, they describe climate and pastimes, housing costs and the school system. In short, the University is set in its physical and social context.

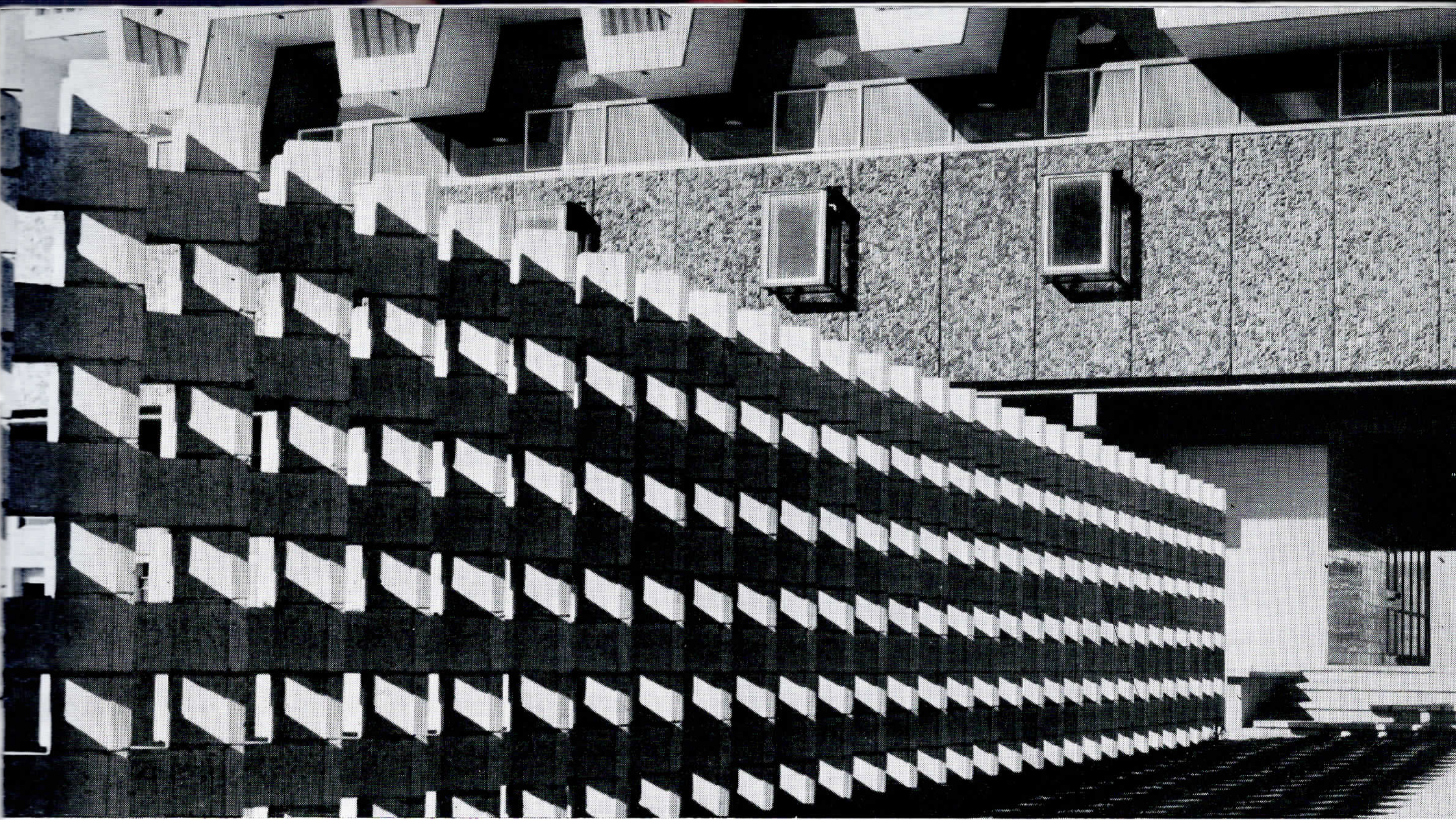
I hope that the portrait which emerges is faithful rather than flattering: candour and perspective have been at least the aim of the authors, all of whom have at some time studied or taught at universities overseas. I hope, too, that those who accept the implicit invitation will be rewarded for their enterprise by finding at Canterbury a life exacting enough to be a challenge and satisfying enough to be a joy.

N. C. PHILLIPS

VICE-CHANCELLOR

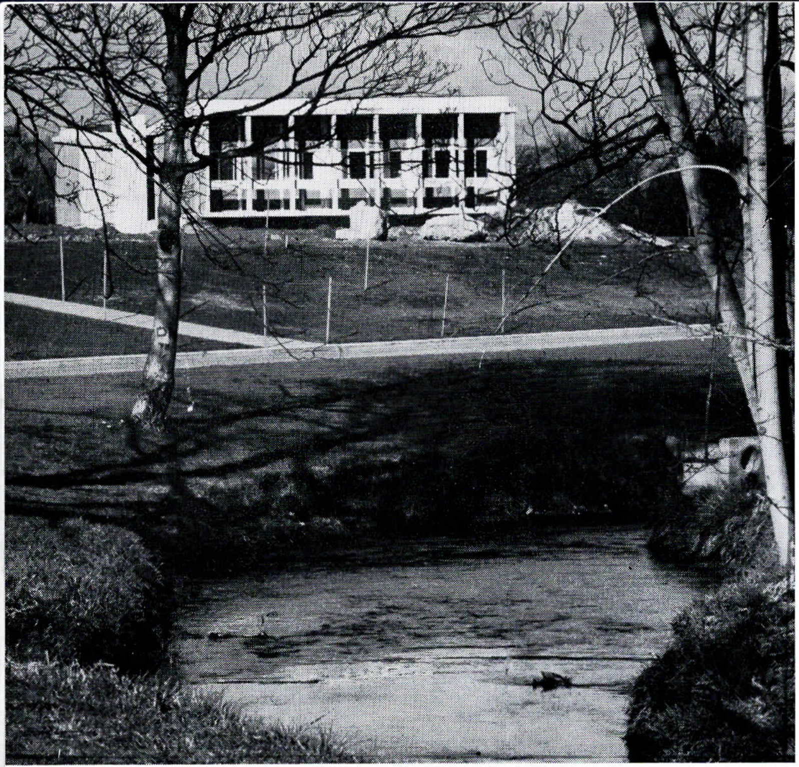
CONTENTS

5 *Introduction to the University*
14 *Living in Canterbury*
30 *Costs and Benefits*
37 *Academic Life*
Statistical Sampler (inside back cover)



Introduction to the University

Entrances—to the Science Faculty buildings at Ilam (above) *and to the Library quadrangle in the city* (right).

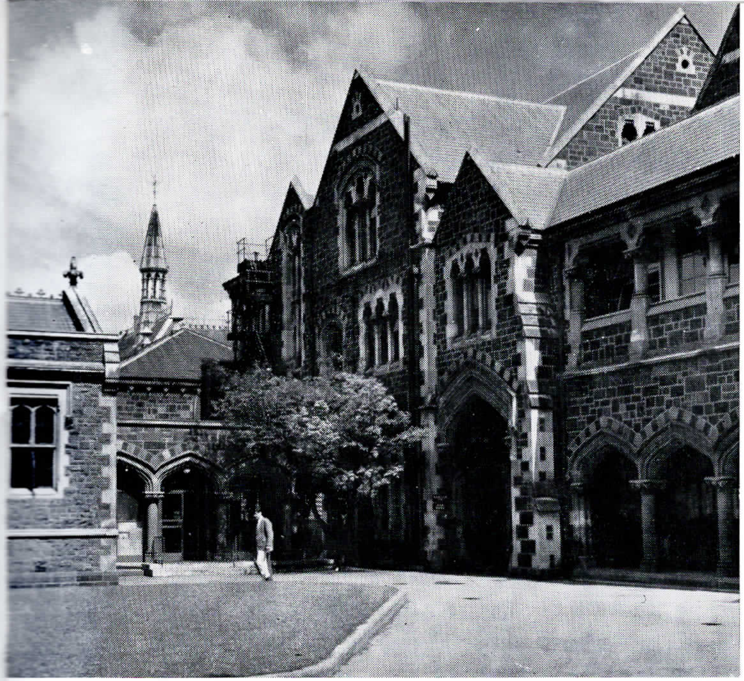


Computer Centre, Ilam (above); *University Hall, city* (below).

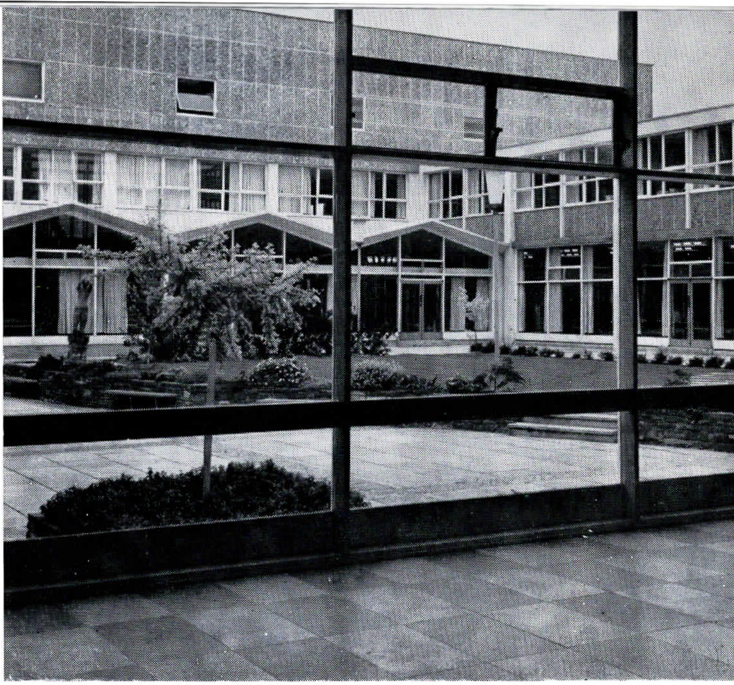
BESIDE THE ANCIENT FOUNDATIONS of the Old World, the University of Canterbury is very young; beside the provincial universities of England, it can claim respectable, if not venerable, age; in relation to the city, province, and country it serves, it is old. Second in seniority of New Zealand's six universities, it was founded in 1873, less than twenty-three years after the province had been founded by men of high cultural ideals. Within eight years it had produced the second woman graduate in the British Empire and the first to win honours. Within twenty years it had taken Ernest Rutherford from a Nelson farmhouse and had begun to awaken his interest in physics.

This early Canterbury College was small, remote, and derivative. Scottish influence was discernible in the structure of its degree courses and perhaps in its reliance on lectures as a teaching method. It housed itself in stone 'Gothic Revival' buildings elaborated with cloister and quadrangle, pinnacle and tower, which served then to remind its founders of their English homeland and serves now to remind young New Zealanders of their origins.

The college grew with the growth of the country: the original three Chairs split and multiplied; from 1887 a School of Engineering developed, and in due course a faculty organisation was established. In 1923 the last permanent build-



Library quadrangle: city

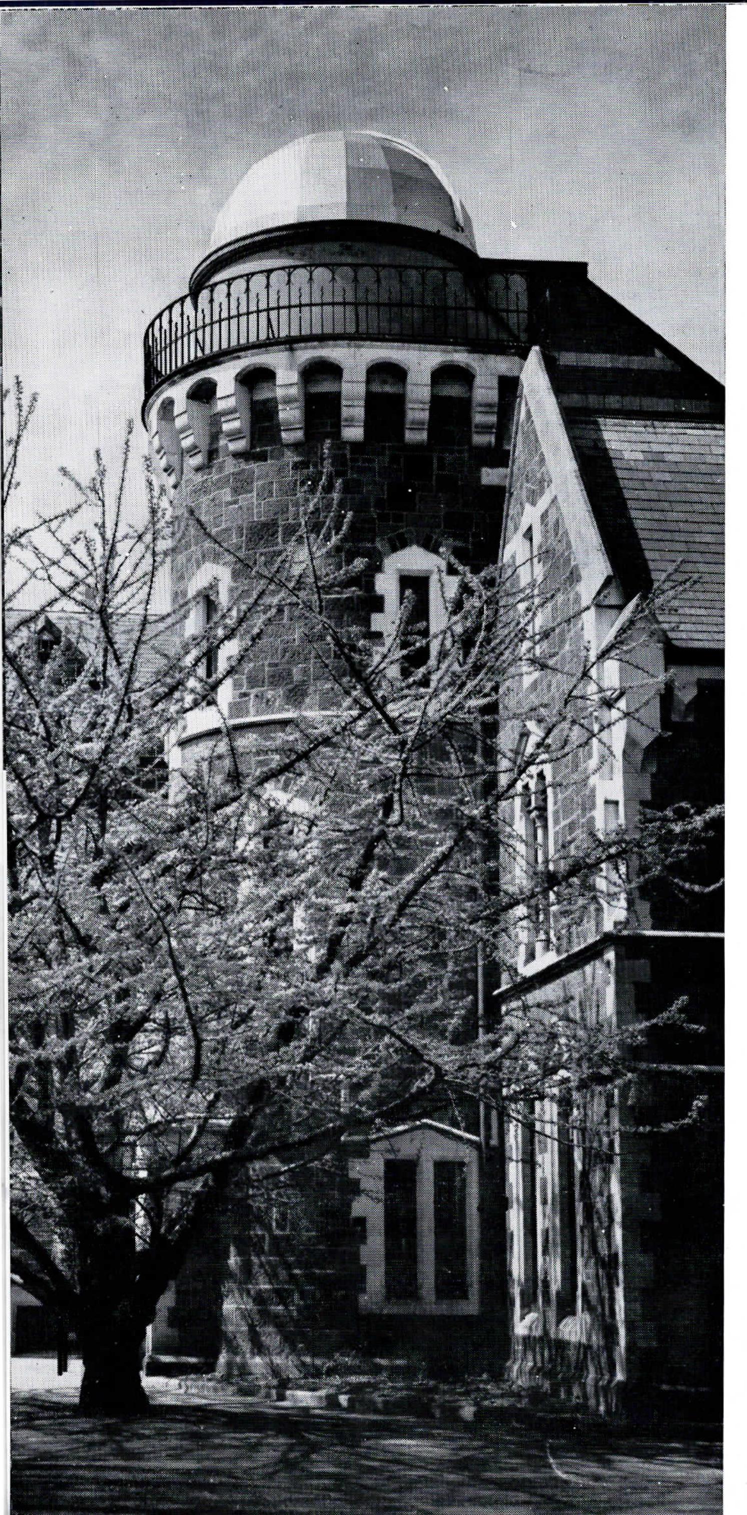


Engineering School quadrangle: Ilam

ing was erected on the pleasant city precincts, flanked to the west by the lawns and flower-beds of the Botanic Gardens, and the matching architecture of the Canterbury Museum.

The end of the Second World War brought an awareness of widening prospects to an institution rapidly coming of age. Soon there arose a conviction that the central site, now grossly overcrowded and disfigured by improvised tenements, could no longer accommodate a university college whose expansion was inevitable because of a national policy of admitting all those able and willing to profit by higher education. Accordingly, the decision was taken to transfer the college, stage by stage, to a well-planted site of 170 acres at Ilam, three miles west of the city centre. The School of Engineering and massive buildings for the Faculty of Science have already been completed; and the final phase of the move is timed for 1972 with the transfer of the rest of the University to Ilam. Halls of residence, a new Student Union, gymnasia, a chapel and a great hall are planned or under construction. When its centennial is celebrated in 1973, Canterbury will in one sense be new walls in new surroundings. But its migration will have made it a closer-knit community than ever before, more dependent upon its own resources for the comforts and recreation of everyday life.

Meanwhile, growth in physical stature has been paralleled by advance in academic status.



Overseas examining was one of the more tolerable casualties of the Second World War. In 1957 Canterbury University College assumed the title of the University of Canterbury—a token of the devolution of power by the federal University of New Zealand, of which Canterbury from the outset had been a constituent institution. And at the beginning of 1962, with the demise of the University of New Zealand, Canterbury became a fully autonomous university, granting its own degrees by authority of Parliament.

Lincoln College, a residential college of agriculture set in farm lands fourteen miles south-west of Christchurch, was one of the constituent institutions of the University of New Zealand. This has now become a constituent college of the University of Canterbury preparing students for the degrees of Bachelor of Agriculture and Bachelor and Master of Agricultural Science. Although it is technically a part of the University of Canterbury, it operates as a separate institution with its own principal, professorial board, and administrative staff. There has always been close co-operation with Lincoln College, particularly in those areas where there is a community of interest; and for those whose field of study is in any way related to agricultural science, the proximity of the College is a great asset.

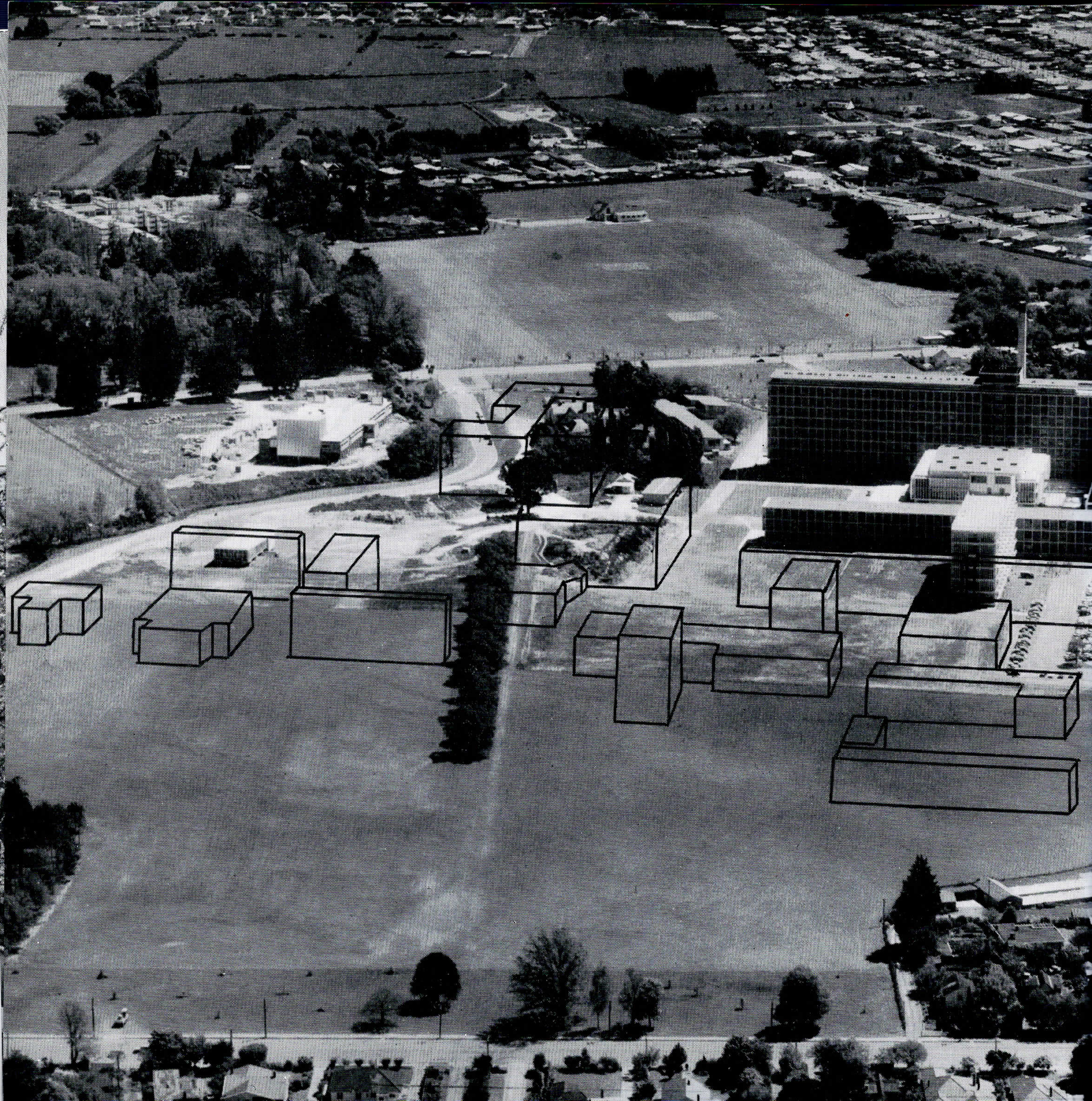
Shapely—but cramped on the city site

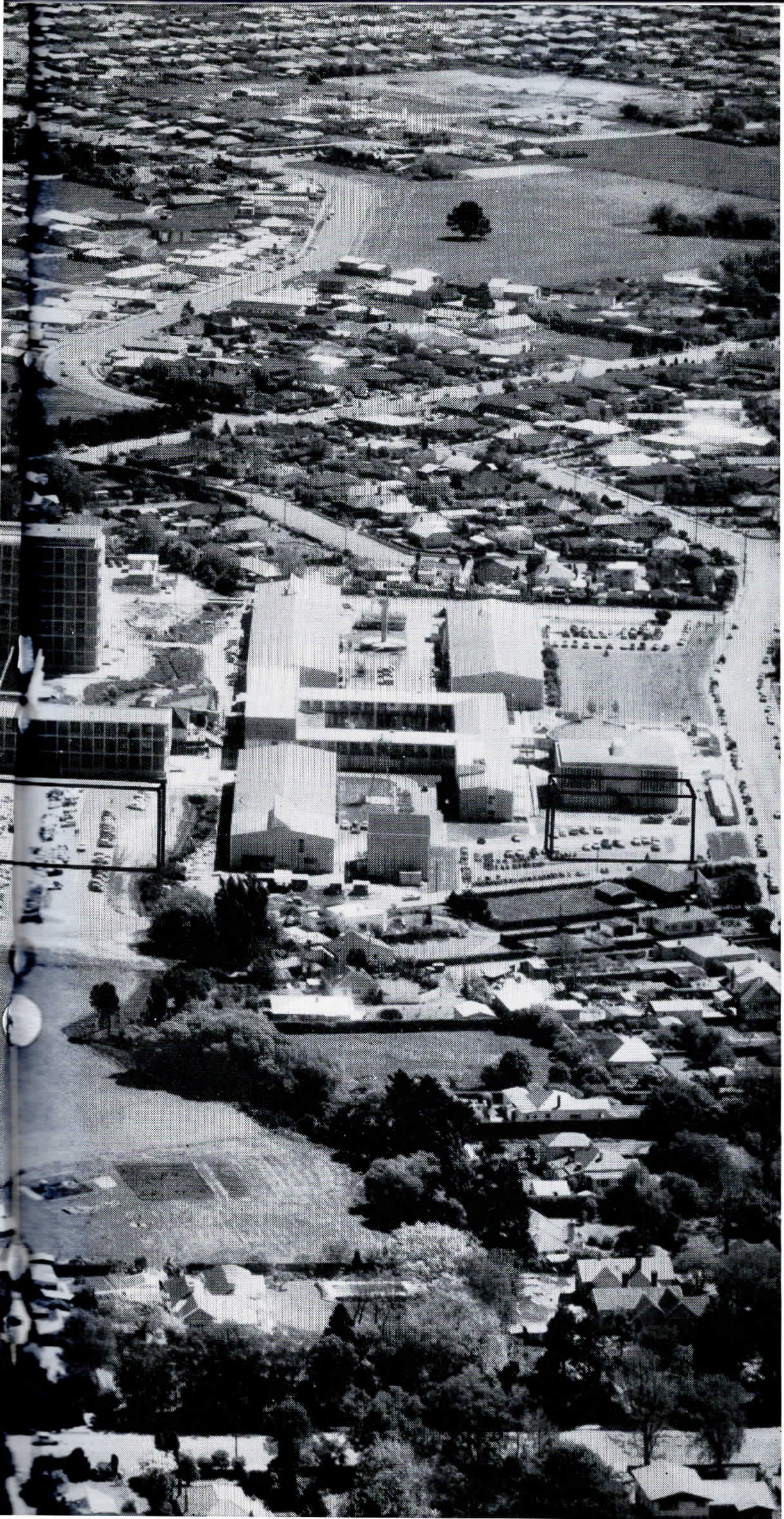
Today the University of Canterbury has a full-time academic staff of about three hundred, and a student roll of over five thousand divided among six faculties—Arts, Science, Engineering, Commerce, Law, and Music and Fine Arts, as they stand in order of enrolments. It is governed by a Council, on which the professors are represented by three members and the lecturers by one. Although the academic representation is smaller than in most British university councils, it is well established, both by law and convention, that the Council shall receive the advice of the Professorial Board on all academic matters. All permanent members of the teaching staff have the opportunity to influence policy—particularly through their respective faculties and often indirectly through their departmental heads. Organisation within departments follows the English model, with the senior professor taking full administrative as well as academic responsibility.

Part-time study is still a feature of all New Zealand universities, though at Canterbury it is virtually extinct in the Faculties of Science and Engineering and is tending to wane elsewhere, notably in Arts and less so in Law and Commerce. A generous bursary system has accelerated this trend. Although full-time study is academically desirable, the university acknowledges a duty to keep its doors open to those (many of them school-teachers) who cannot attend during the day, and not uncommonly discovers among them some of its most promising students. The cost is not so much in academic standards as in the inconvenience of late afternoon classes and a few evening classes in some departments.

Such, in broad outline, is the University of Canterbury. In what follows an attempt is made to explore in greater detail the conditions of life in the city and province, the prospects for a livelihood, and the academic life of the University.

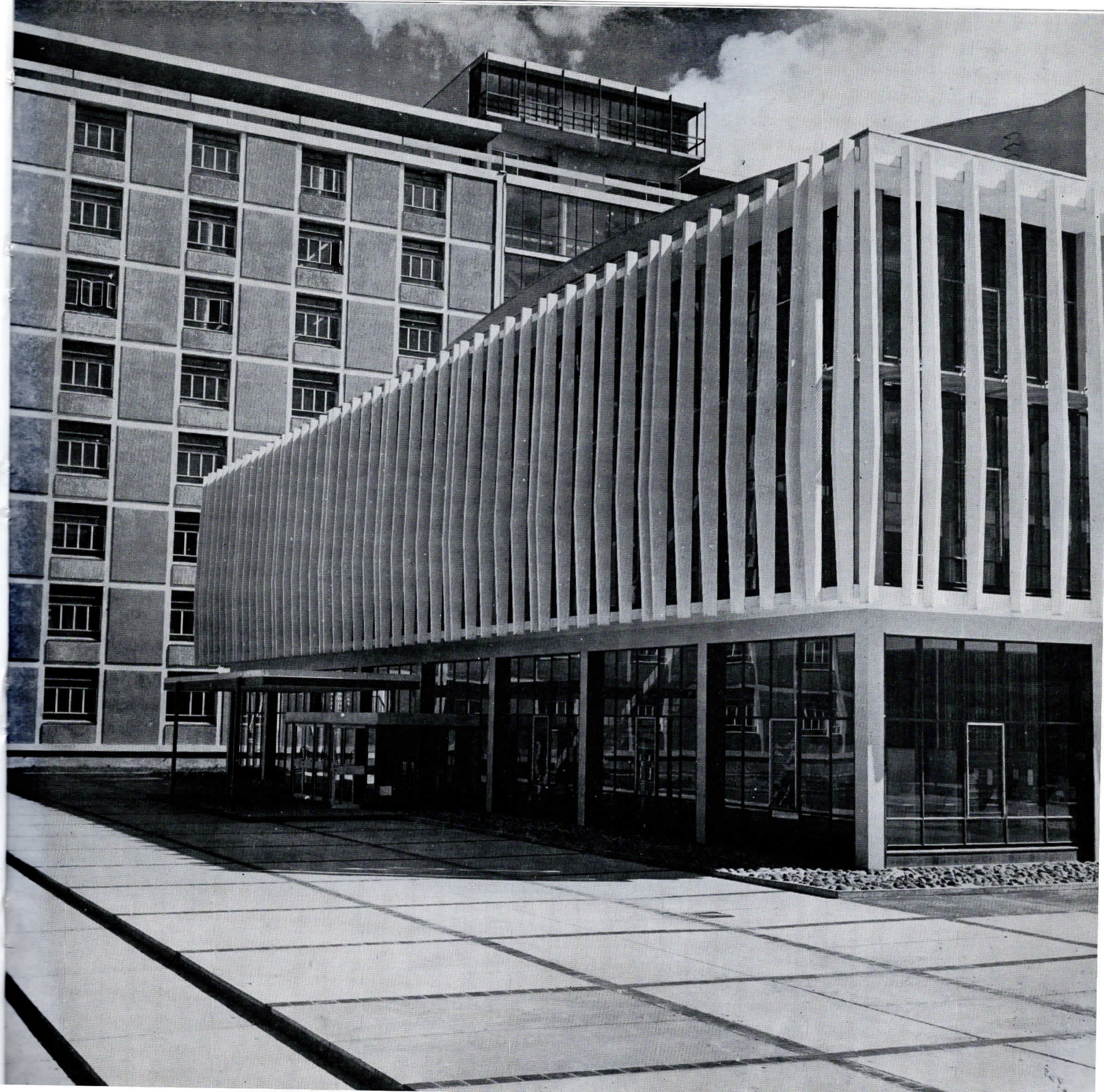
Lincoln College—part of the original 1880 block





The transfer of the University to the Ilam site is half completed. Buildings for the School of Engineering (right) *were completed in 1960 and the massive buildings of the Faculty of Science were occupied in 1966. The siting of new buildings for the Library and the Faculties of Arts, Commerce, Law, Music and Fine Arts, the School of Forestry and the Registry is indicated by the blocks. To the left is the new Students' Union and playing fields and sites for new halls of residence stretch beyond the teaching buildings. The vacant land at the top of the picture is the site for a new Teachers' College.*

The core of the new Faculty of Science buildings—the science lecture theatre block containing 11 lecture rooms ranging in size from 60 to 300 seats. The block is linked with the science departments by covered walkways at first-floor level. The science buildings have a total floor area of nearly nine acres and a half and cost $6,400,000. Extensions of a similar size are already contemplated.



Living in Canterbury

The front ranges of the Southern Alps: a view across forty miles of the Canterbury Plains, from a Christchurch hill suburb
Telephoto. V. C. Browne

A WAY OF LIVING is dependent upon facilities, opportunities, and the physical environment. For this reason some facts and figures are presented in the following pages, from which a picture of the way life can be lived in the city of Christchurch and the province of Canterbury may be built up.

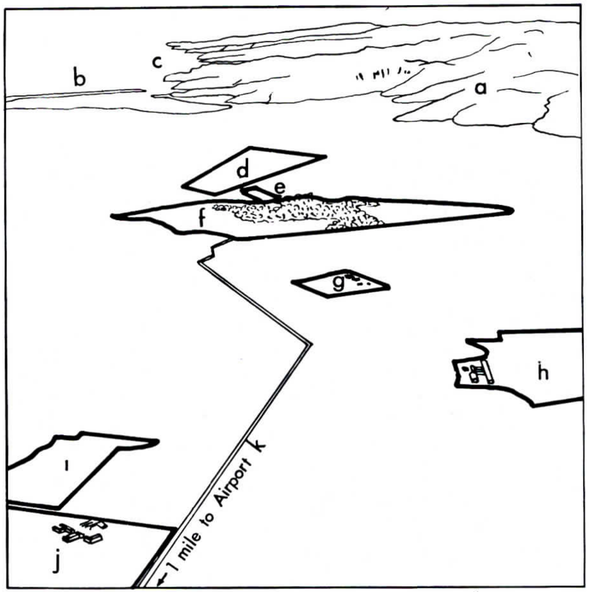
THE CITY AND ITS SETTING

Christchurch, the largest city in the South Island, has doubled in size over the past forty years and at the 1966 census had an urban population of 246,000, compared with 547,000 in Auckland and 167,000 in Wellington. Its rate of growth is slightly faster than that of the New Zealand population as a whole, and by 1970 it is expected that there will be a population of 265,000, rising to 320,000 by 1980.

Most of the city is on a flat alluvial plain, the greatest extent of the built-up area being ten miles east-west and six miles north-south. Immediately south of the city the hills of Banks Peninsula rise to three thousand feet and enclose deep-water harbours, including Lyttelton Harbour—the port of Christchurch. From the city and coastline, the Canterbury Plains slope gently inland for some thirty to forty miles right up to the foot of the front ranges of the Southern Alps. These rise abruptly to six or seven thousand feet and are snow-covered in winter, in impressive contrast to the Plains, with their patchwork of introduced crops and grasses, and shelter belts of Australian gums and North American pines. Some hundred miles to the west of Christchurch the Alps rise to their highest point in Mt Cook—a peak of over twelve thousand feet.

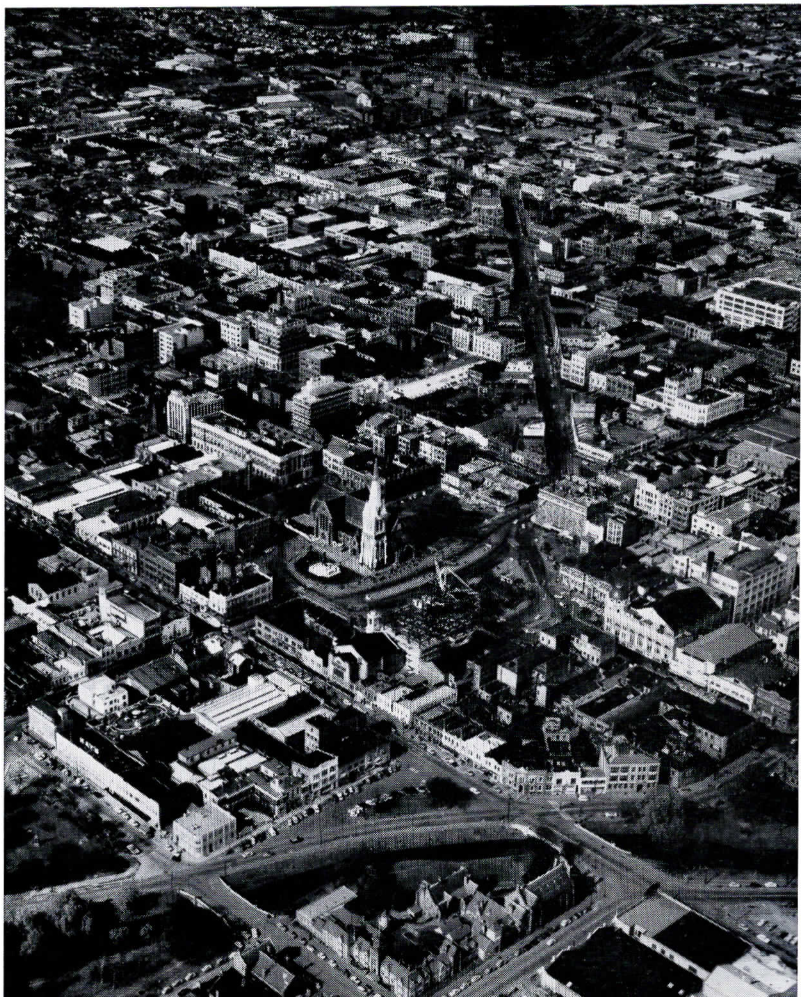
The central part of the city is laid out in a rectangular grid pattern, with a cathedral standing in the central square as the focal point. As the city has expanded, extensive provision has been made for public parks, recreation grounds, and reserves: only a few hundred yards from the centre of the city there is an area of almost four hundred and fifty acres of parkland and gardens—Hagley Park and the Botanic Gardens. Attractive use has been made of the river Avon which winds through the city, and this, together with avenues, lawns, and gardens, gives the inner city a distinctive atmosphere. The suburbs, which tend to sprawl because of the flat land available, consist of individual houses and bungalows of brick or brightly painted timber, most of them with detached garages, and each set in its own section, commonly one-fifth to one-quarter of an acre in size.

Looking S.E.—seven miles from 'a' to 'j'
V. C. Browne airview



a	*North-western slopes of Banks Peninsula*
b	*City beaches, and* c *Sumner beach*
d	*City centre (as in aerial view on right)*
e	*University central site*
f	*Hagley Park*
g	*Boys' secondary school*
h	*School of Engineering and part of Ilam site*
i	*A suburban park*
j	*New co-educational secondary school*
k	*Memorial Avenue to Christchurch Airport*

S.E. across the city centre
V. C. Browne airview



One block from Cathedral Square: lawns, gardens, and the river Avon

Beside the Avon: Captain Robert Falcon Scott. American Antarctic operations are today based on Christchurch Airport

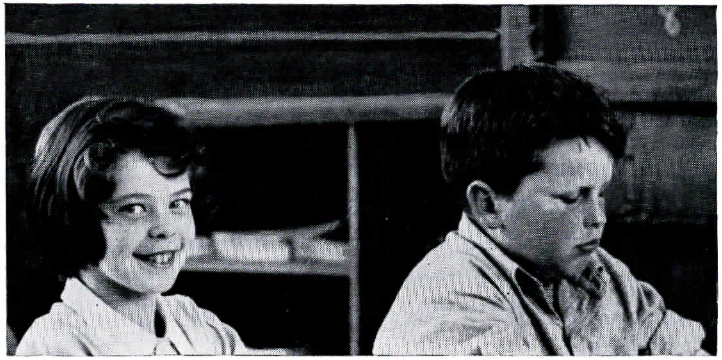
The Christchurch climate has certain attractive features, in particular the high number of sunshine hours, even in winter, and the low number of days with rain. (Selected climatic data for Christchurch and other cities are shown in the accompanying table.) Sharp weather changes can be experienced in all seasons—maximum temperatures of over 70°F have been recorded in all months of the year—and winds are stronger and more persistent than in most parts of Britain. An average of thirty-six frosts per year is recorded, and heating in homes is normally required in the evenings, and often during the day, from May to August. Frosts are more severe than in most parts of lowland Britain but daytime air temperatures exceed 80°F on about twenty days a year, and very occasionally temperatures in the nineties are recorded. There is a tendency to damp fogs in some of the winter months but these are not persistent, are light compared with those in Britain, and usually clear by mid-morning. Families with children who cannot tolerate even this small amount of dampness usually live in one of the hill suburbs of the city.

ANNUAL CLIMATIC AVERAGES FOR UNIVERSITY CENTRES IN NEW ZEALAND WITH SOME BRITISH COMPARISONS

Centre	*Rainfall Inches*	*Number of Rain Days*	*Hours of Bright Sunshine*	*Mean Daily Maximum Temperatures Degrees Fahrenheit*	
				Mid-Summer Month	*Mid-Winter Month*
Christchurch	26	125	1980	70	50
Auckland	49	182	2150	73	57
Wellington	49	166	2010	67	51
Dunedin	31	161	1770	65	49
Oxford (England)	25	172	1480	70	44
Bristol (England)	36	188	1532	69	46

Daily rail and motor-coach services run from Christchurch to all parts of the South Island, and an overnight "roll-on, roll-off" steamer-express provides a convenient connection with Wellington. (Examples of sea, air, and rail fares are included in the statistical sampler; see inside back cover). Another link with the North Island—for the more leisurely traveller prepared for the 219 mile journey from Christchurch to Picton—is the daily car and train ferry which makes the crossing from Picton to Wellington in less than three and one-half hours. Christchurch international airport is only five miles from the city centre and Viscount and Friendship aircraft operate frequent internal services: the air trip to Wellington takes one hour, and that to Auckland approximately two hours. There is also a daily service from Christchurch to Australia—to either Sydney or Melbourne.

A suburban primary school: spacious grounds and pleasant aspect



EDUCATION

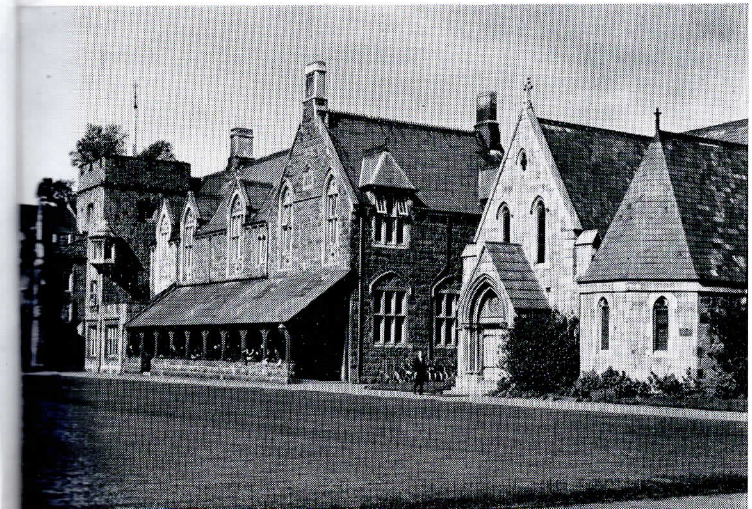
Like the University, the school system has its roots in British practices and attitudes, but has gradually adapted itself to the needs and particular circumstances of New Zealand life. For this reason, comparisons may be misleading, but it can be fairly claimed that although the independent and grammar school traditions are not as strong in New Zealand as in Britain, opportunities for a broad education leading to entry to the universities and the professions are open to a much greater proportion of children.

Education in New Zealand is free, and compulsory between the ages of seven and fifteen: most children enter primary school at five and free education may continue until the end of the year in which the pupil reaches nineteen. Children under the age of five may attend kindergartens or play-centres from one to five half-days a week.

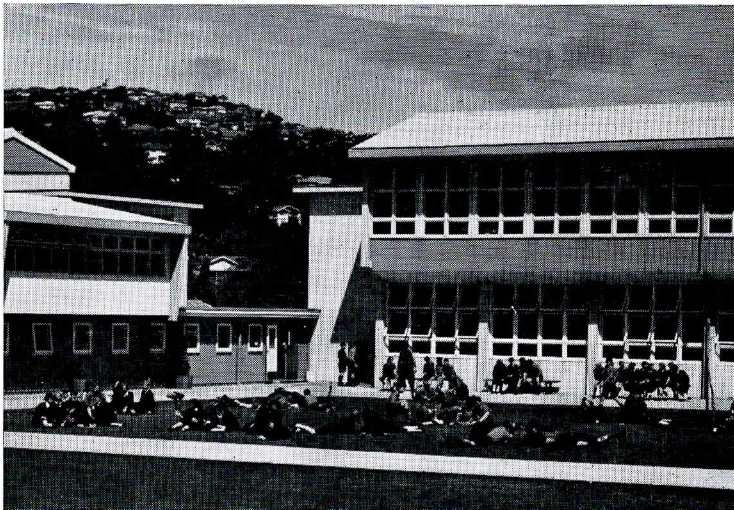
Most primary schools in the city and suburban areas are six-year schools: two years for the infant classes and four years for the 'standard' classes. At the end of their sixth year (about the age of eleven) children transfer to one of the large two-year intermediate schools which make provision for Forms I and II. These schools have more facilities than primary schools (e.g., cooking, homecraft, woodwork, and metal-work rooms), and provide for individual differences by making use of ability grouping. In areas not served by an intermediate school the primary schools have Forms I and II, the curriculum being basically the same as that in the intermediate school. Apart from the State primary and intermediate schools in the Christchurch area, there are denominational primary schools, the majority being Roman Catholic.

There is no qualifying examination for entry into the secondary schools of New Zealand. All schools have a multi-course structure and are akin to the 'comprehensive' schools in Britain. Pupils are grouped within the school according to ability and courses, and although some schools have a stronger 'grammar school' tradition than others, all schools prepare students for the School Certificate and University Entrance examinations. There is thus no 'eleven-plus' barrier, with the result that preparation for the university is kept open for all pupils and, in fact, university students are drawn from all the secondary schools of Christchurch.

Independent secondary boys' school: established in the 1850s



Public co-educational secondary school: established in the 1950s



In the Christchurch area there are two girls' high schools, two boys' high schools, and ten co-educational high schools, with roll numbers that vary from about five hundred to one thousand. In addition to these State schools there are five Roman Catholic, three Anglican, and two Presbyterian secondary schools. Day fees at the Roman Catholic Schools range from $30 to $75 per annum, and at other private schools from $190 to $325 per annum. Free text books are supplied in all schools—primary and secondary, State and private. The private schools in general follow the same educational pattern as the State schools, including preparation for the university.

The School Certificate examination—regarded by many employers as a desirable educational qualification for entry to many occupations—is normally taken after three years of secondary schooling. Entry to the university is by the University Entrance Examination, but in practice the more able pupils are 'accredited' for this examination at the end of the fourth or fifth secondary school year: a pupil is accredited when his school certifies that he has reached the standard of achievement required for entrance to a university. It is the general impression of many university teachers from Britain that the School Certificate standard is lower than the G.C.E. Ordinary level, and that the University Entrance standard is lower than the G.C.E. Advanced.

EMPLOYMENT STRUCTURE
OF CHRISTCHURCH URBAN AREA, APRIL 1961

Category	*Number Employed*	*Percentage of Total*
Manufacturing:		
Food and Drink	2,207	3.0
Textiles and Clothing	7,116	10.0
Building Materials	3,597	5.0
Engineering and Metals	9,495	13.0
Misc. Manufacturing	5,229	7.3
Building and Construction	5,622	7.8
Transport and Communication	6,211	8.6
Distribution and Finance	14,852	20.6
Administration, Personal and Professional Services	13,448	18.7
Other	4,275	6.0

For students preparing to become teachers in the primary schools, the Christchurch Teachers' College offers a three-year course, and a one-year course for graduates preparing for the secondary school service. As in Britain, there are the usual evening classes provided by the Government Department of Education, the W.E.A., and the Extension Studies Department of the University.

Perhaps the best way to convey an overall impression of education in this country is to say that the schools of New Zealand do not seem very strange to the newly-settled child. On the contrary, their pleasant aspect, spacious grounds, and friendly atmosphere facilitate the processes of transition and adaptation, and provide a healthy and satisfying educational environment.

A wide range of employment opportunities is available in the Christchurch area to those leaving school, and because of the size and expected growth of the city opportunities should expand and diversify. Recruits to the Government service and to some of the larger commercial firms may be transferred, after a period, to other centres; and persons with good promotion prospects may be expected to spend some time during the early part of their careers in Wellington.

CULTURAL FACILITIES

Many university people from the United Kingdom who now live in Christchurch insist that cultural facilities in music, drama, and the arts are better developed than in a British provincial city of comparable size. Certainly, there is a more active participation in cultural activities, although those accustomed to metropolitan life may miss the professional theatre and large symphony orchestras.

Music is perhaps the best developed of the arts. The New Zealand National Orchestra normally gives about six symphony concerts and three promenade concerts in Christchurch each year. A flourishing Chamber Music Society with over a thousand members sponsors six concerts a year, five of them by overseas groups from Europe, North America, and Australia; furthermore, about ten soloists of international reputation visit the city each year, normally in the winter months. Music-lovers and performers are well served by a local string orchestra, the larger Christchurch Civic Orchestra, and two large choral societies—quite apart from the many smaller groups and societies which are very active. The University itself has built up a reputation in New Zealand for its active music-making: there is a full-time professional string quartet on the staff of the Music Department; periodic Master-Classes for instrumentalists are arranged; public lunch-hour concerts by local and overseas artists are given weekly in the University hall during term time, and occasional evening recitals are also given by visiting soloists and ensembles.

Opportunities to see professional opera, ballet, theatre, and great art exhibitions are necessarily limited. The city is, however, visited two or three times a year by the New Zealand Opera Company and the New Zealand Ballet Company, and a particularly large and active amateur Repertory Society produces six plays yearly in its own very well equipped theatre. The University has a small, well-equipped theatre at Ilam. There are several lively art groups and societies, and one of the two art galleries in the city is used for exhibitions by these groups as well as for exhibitions of New Zealand and overseas loan collections.

Reconstruction of a Christchurch colonial street in the Early Settlers section of the Canterbury Museum

The Canterbury Museum has some outstanding displays: in particular, of the early Colonial period in Canterbury and of the ethnology and natural history of New Zealand and the Pacific. Among the research collections in New Zealand Geology, Botany, Zoology, and Anthropology there is an important collection from the Moa-hunter period of Maori culture.

Four radio stations—part of the New Zealand Broadcasting Corporation network—operate in Christchurch, and reception from a number of other stations, with their alternative programmes, is normally good in the evenings. The three-tiered structure of the services provides for light commercial, general, and serious programmes (e.g., talks, drama, and serious music). Television was introduced in 1960 and in its present phase of development broadcasts from 2 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Periodicals from Europe and North America normally take six weeks to arrive by surface mail, but the airmail editions of the *Times Weekly Review* and the *Guardian Weekly*, for example, are delivered in Christchurch four days after publication. A good coverage and comment upon international news is provided by two major provincial newspapers, and there are several serious national periodicals of good quality, such as *Landfall* and *Comment*. No Sunday newspaper is published in Christchurch, though Wellington newspapers are on sale on Sundays.

The Christchurch Public Library has well-equipped reference, circulating, and children's collections; and there are several well-stocked bookshops in the city. Prices of books, in comparison with British published prices, range from equivalent prices for many novels and children's books to twenty-five per cent above British prices for most specialist non-fiction, or as high as thirty-three per cent for very specialised books. University teachers are generally given a ten to fifteen per cent discount, which partly offsets the higher retail prices for specialised books. There is some inconvenience in having to wait eight to twelve weeks while some of the newly-published specialist books are indented from overseas, but while such inconvenience is irritating, it is soon accepted and does not seriously interfere with staff members' work.

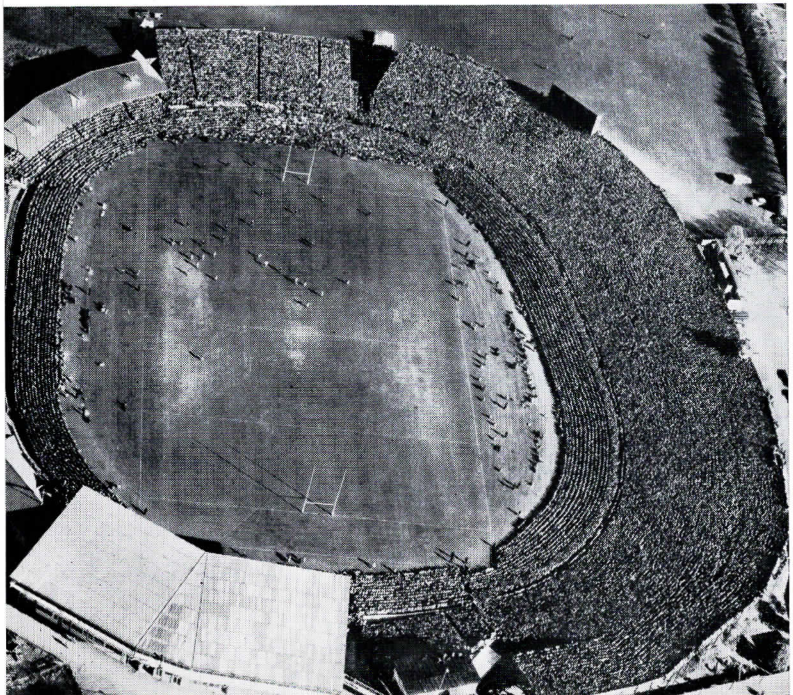
RECREATION

One of the great attractions of living in Christchurch is that it is easy to enjoy both summer and winter recreation. In and near Christchurch there is ample provision for all types of organised sport as well as for golf, rowing, riding, yachting, tramping, fishing, and swimming. New Zealanders are water-minded: in addition to the public swimming pools there are swimming pools at most primary and secondary schools (and swimming is taught as a part of the curriculum); harbour bays lie within a little over half an hour's drive from the city; a thirty-mile string of sandy, ocean bathing beaches extends north from the city's limits. Trout or salmon fishing in Canterbury's lakes and rivers is very popular, the annual licence fee being only $5 per head. The inexpensiveness of

Water jet boats—a Canterbury invention—skim over the rapids of the Waimakariri river gorge. Jet boating is a popular sport in high-country lakes and rivers.

Hagley Park—for players

Lancaster Park—for spectators   *V. C. Browne airview*



most of these facilities makes it possible for more people to enjoy them, and for a family to enjoy a wide range of activities.

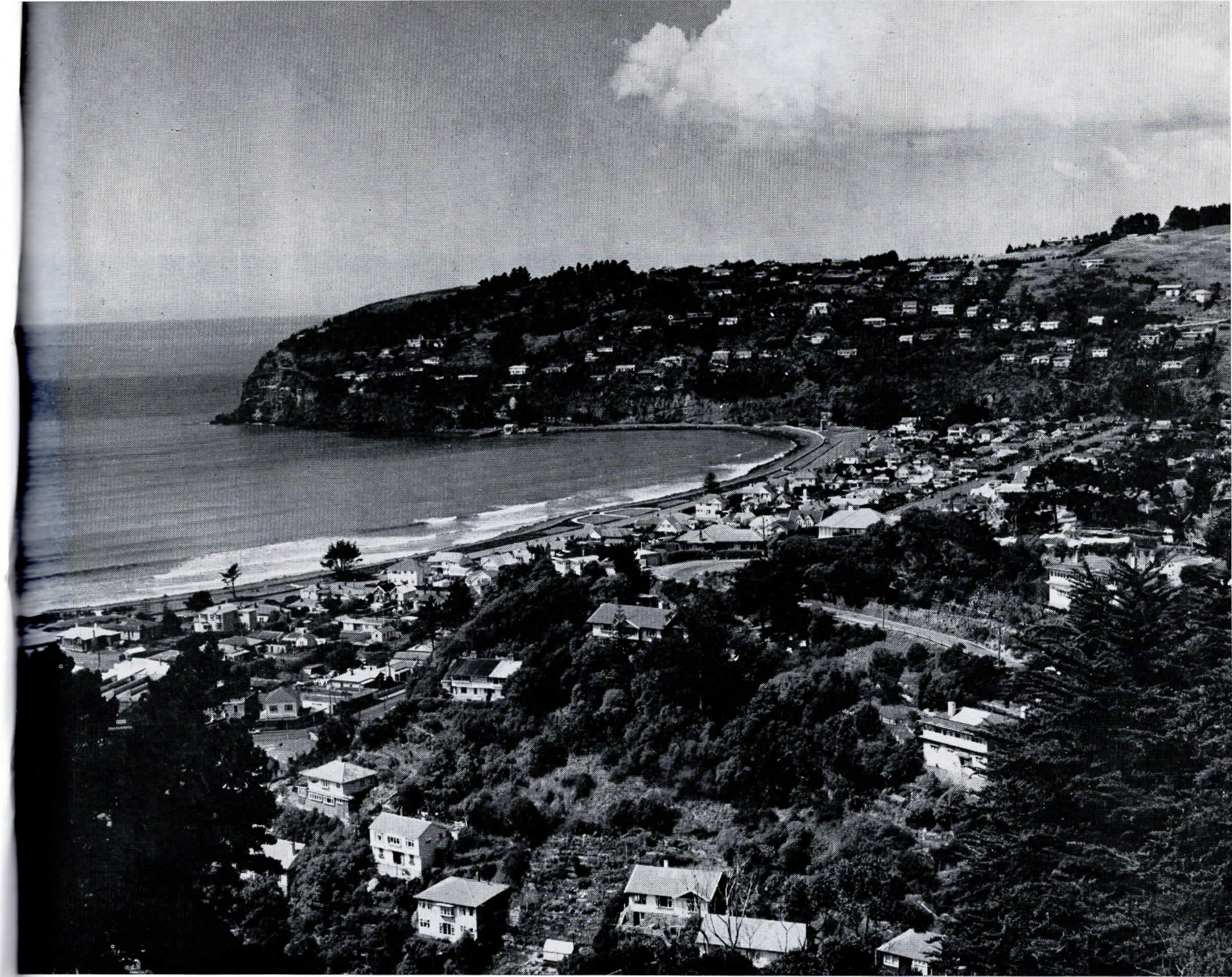
A familiar feature of the New Zealand scene is the holiday 'bach' or cottage—along the coastline, in the bays of the lakes and sounds, or close to the high peaks of the Alps. For those who prefer the really high country there is virtually uninhabited mountain country, with unlimited mountaineering, winter ski-ing, and ice skating little more than an hour and a half's drive from the city. Although public transport to such areas is limited, there is a daily rail service from Christchurch to Canterbury's easily accessible mountain resort at Arthur's Pass, ninety-four miles north-west of Christchurch. Further afield, and even more spectacular, is the Mt Cook area—just over two hundred miles by road, or a one-hour trip by air service.

This outline of the wide range and easy accessibility of recreational facilities and activities may appear to be an exaggeration: but it is not so. The type of attraction which one finds in Canterbury is duplicated over and over again in the South Island, sometimes in much more spectacular settings. For those who appreciate and enjoy the stimulus of the natural environment, Canterbury—and indeed the whole of the South Island—has much to offer.

Part of the ski-ing ground at Arthur's Pass, with Mt Rolleston (7,453 ft.) in the background
V. C. Browne

Arthur's Pass township, 94 miles by road from Christchurch, is a favourite resort for many University staff and students (the University Students' Association has its own hut there). It is an ideal centre for mountaineering, tramping, ski-ing, or easy 'family' walks along the native bush tracks. Closer to Christchurch (about 60 miles), and on the Arthur's Pass route, there are extensive and easily accessible ski-ing fields

Lyttelton harbour—the port of Christchurch—is 15 minutes by train and car from the city centre through road and rail tunnels.



Sumner: a Christchurch suburb and beach seven miles from the city centre

Costs and Benefits

Princess Margaret public hospital

IT IS GENERALLY TRUE that New Zealand is a good and not particularly expensive country in which to live and bring up a young family. Elaboration of such a general statement involves a comparison of living standards in the United Kingdom and New Zealand: an extremely difficult task, even if personal net income is known for each country. Although two New Zealand dollars officially exchange for one pound sterling, considerable price differences exist. Yet prices are at best a rough guide to standards of living, because a different pattern of expenditure is bound to apply; furthermore, taxation levels and welfare benefits must be taken into account.

Details of superannuation and taxation accompany 'terms of appointment' documents, and all that it is necessary to note here is that a good superannuation scheme is compulsory for staff members. Direct taxation through a P.A.Y.E. scheme is substantial; but the taxpayer receives a considerable return, for the Welfare State operates very comprehensively in New Zealand and provides a wide range of benefits, which include:

Free dental care for children up to sixteen years of age.

A child allowance of $1.50 per week per child.

Universal Superannuation payable after sixty-five years of age (subject to residence qualification): $550 p.a.

Free prescribed medicines, and $0.75 towards the cost of medical consultation.

Free public hospital and subsidised private hospital service.

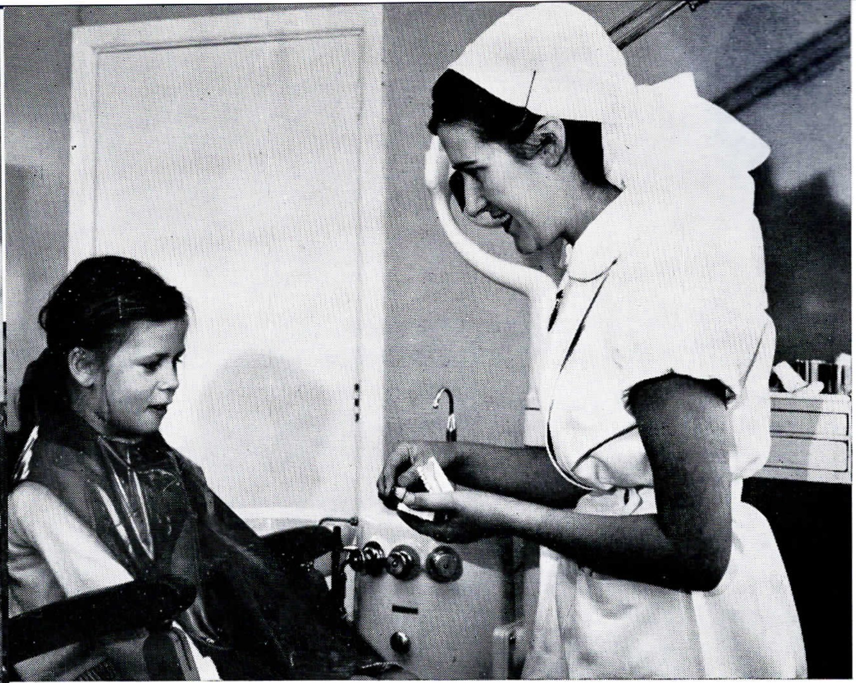
Sickness and widows' benefits in certain circumstances.

If these benefits are considered in association with the possibility of Government housing loans, it will be recognised that, although the political dream of security 'from the cradle to the grave' may be philosophically unsound, it is not very far from being an economic reality in New Zealand.

A GENERAL COMPARISON

In comparing costs and financial status in New Zealand and Britain, the first general impressions of a new staff member and his wife would be somewhat as follows:

Food is probably cheaper in New Zealand if the housewife is prepared to do more work in prepara-



A primary-school dental clinic: regular examinations and routine treatment at school dental clinics are available for all pre-school and school-age children

tion (e.g., jam-making and fruit-bottling). Meat is cheaper, and the climate favours easy growth of standard vegetables: most Christchurch people have a small vegetable garden.

Clothing is dearer than in the United Kingdom, especially woollens and, to a lesser extent, cottons. Range of choice is poorer.

Housing appears to be more expensive than in the United Kingdom, but a fair comparison must take into account the fact that although prices may seem higher, amenities such as area of garden and privacy are superior.

Relative financial status. It might be argued that how well off you feel depends upon how well off other people are. The university lecturer in New Zealand might not be quite as high up the national salary hierarchy as the lecturer in the United Kingdom, even although his social status would be similar. New Zealand has a much more egalitarian society than Britain and the overall wage structure is flatter: skilled tradesmen often do very well, as do many professional men in their own practices, but extremes of wealth and poverty are rare.

HOUSING

As this is likely to be a major factor in considering a family move to Christchurch, the general impression given above needs to be expanded. The University has no properties of its own, so that the newly-arrived member of staff must find a flat or house until he is in a position to build or buy a house. Building costs and section prices are lower in Christchurch than in other main centres in New Zealand: for example, building costs range from $7 to $8 per square foot, but because of the level sites and readily available materials, these costs are from $0.80 to $1.00 less than in any other New Zealand city (see statistical sampler for representative prices). Rents are also cheaper than in North Island centres.

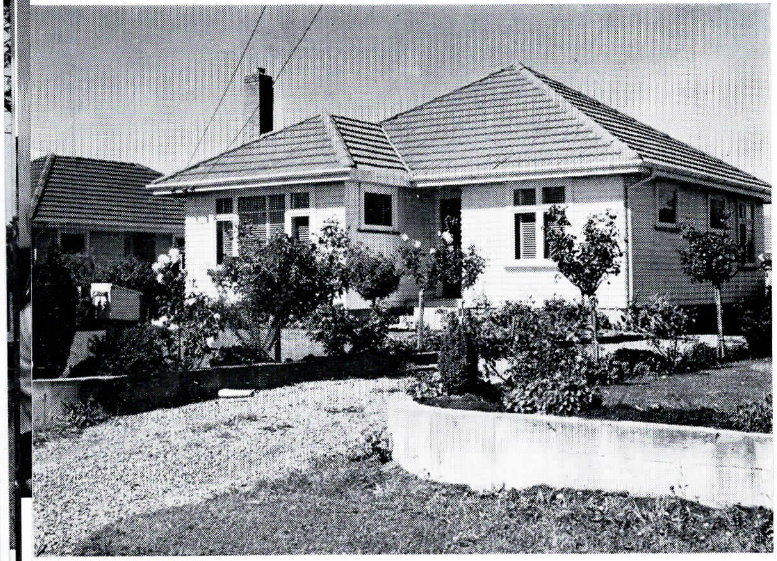
Buying your own House. Houses in Christchurch are fully detached and stand on relatively spacious sections or lots (from twenty-four to forty perches). Depending upon locality and services, section prices range from $3000 to $6000, although in some select localities prices may rise considerably higher than this. Local body annual rates vary roughly between $100 and $140. Older houses (back to, say, 1920) are usually constructed of wooden weather-boarding with corrugated iron roof, providing reasonable insulation for a temperate climate, but involving painting costs. Newer houses, especially post-1945, will often be of single-brick or concrete block walls reinforced by a substantial timber frame, with a tiled roof.

Houses may be financed by private borrowing or by borrowing from the Government (State Advances Corporation). Conditions differ somewhat for private loans, depending on the property concerned and the possibility of a second mortgage: at present the first mortgage interest rate is 6½ per cent. The availability of loan funds for mortgage on the private market is not constant, and during periods when money is tight, it may be that up to one-half of the total value of a property would have to be found in cash by the buyer, whereas in easier times this would be nearer one-third.

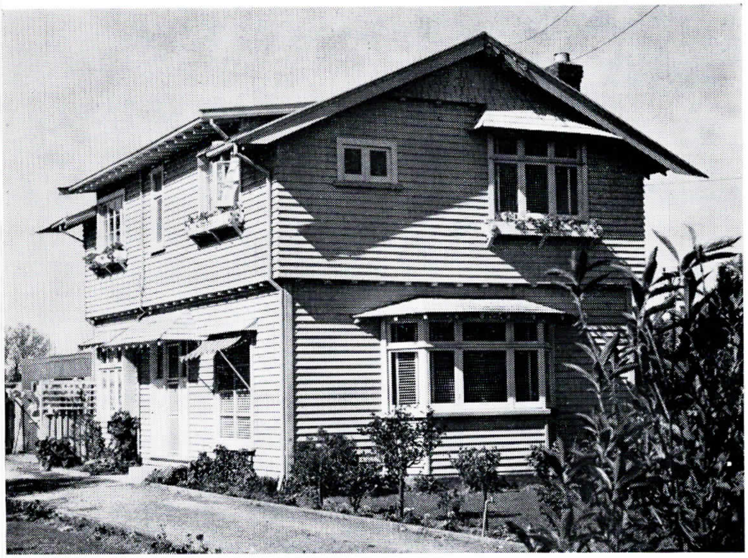
The University Council has authority to guarantee housing loans, for new or existing houses, to university staff recruited directly from overseas. The maximum amount that may be guaranteed is limited to the amount by which ninety per cent of the valuation or $9000 (whichever is the lower) exceeds the usual two-thirds mortgage advanced by a lending institution. (Further details are available from the University Registrar.)

Renting Accommodation. Complete houses are not easy to rent and this is not a reliably supplied market. In the rare event of availability, rents will be high ($16 to $24 per week, furnished) and a one-year lease is often insisted upon. As flats vary very greatly in cost, amenity, and location value, it is not easy to generalise. Self-contained unfurnished flats with two bedrooms can be obtained for $12 to $16 per week; furnished flats for an additional $2 to $3. There is no serious absolute shortage of flats, and cheaper accommodation may be found by assiduous searching.

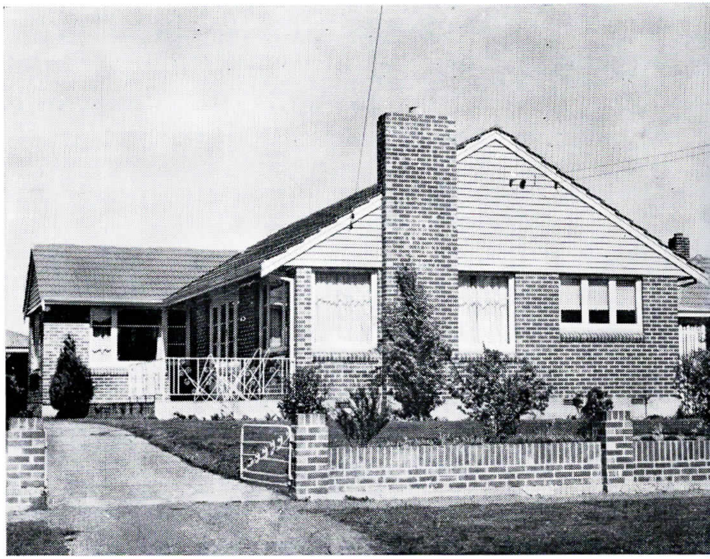
Wooden bungalow, in new housing area, $8,500



Brick bungalow, $10,000 to $12,000, depending on locality



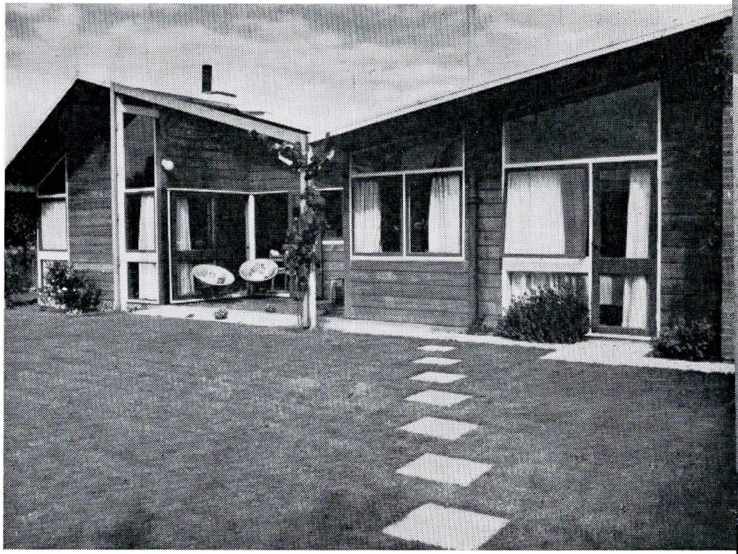
Over 30 years old, average locality, about $8,000

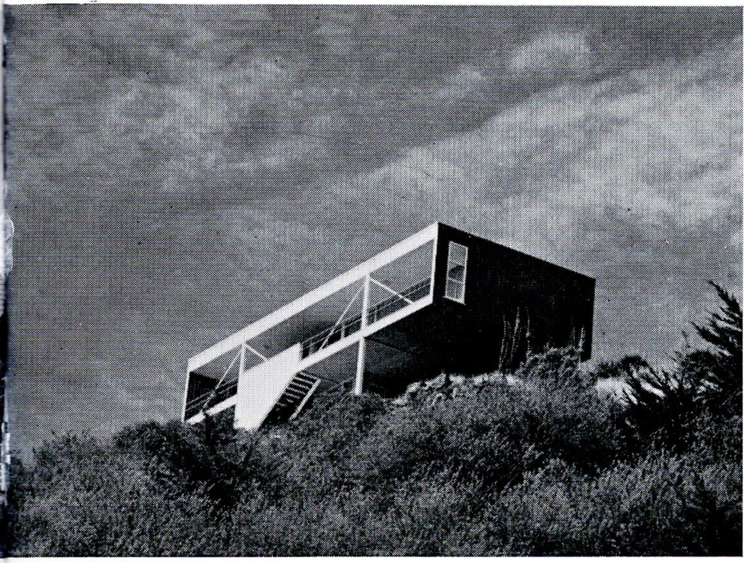


Good quality brick house, good locality, about $15,000

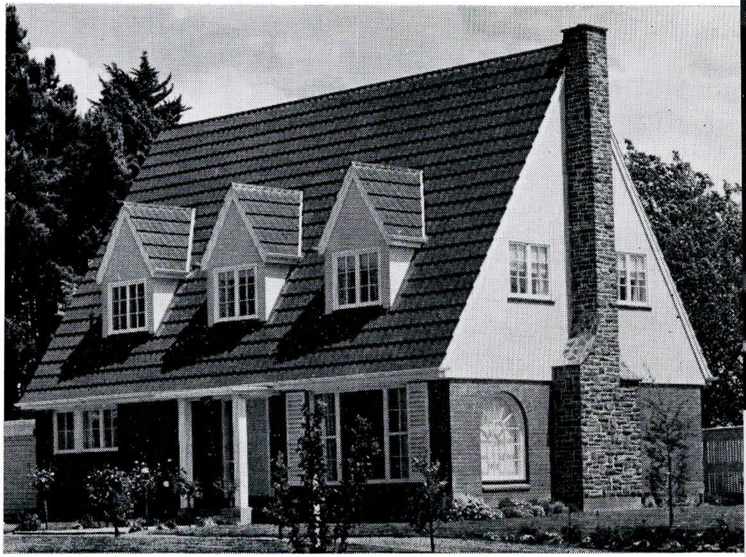
Roomy house (on right), over 30 years old, good locality, half acre of land, $14,000 to $15,000

Modern architect-planned house, $12,000 to build (plus cost of section, $3,000 to $5,500 depending on locality)





Looking forward: for the more adventurous planners; panoramic view of plains, sea and mountains. About $15,000



New, roomy, luxurious fittings and in excellent locality. About $20,000

MOTORING

A car is a real as well as a conventional necessity in New Zealand. Motoring holidays with tent or caravan are extremely popular, and this is not surprising in view of the sporting and scenic variety offered by the country at large. Roads are on the whole good, when distances and population densities are taken into account. For urban transport, too, a car is extremely useful, although peak traffic congestion and parking troubles are growing nuisances.

Cars are expensive to buy, and so are motoring accessories, although petrol is not as heavily taxed as in Britain. Despite this, motoring can be cheap. The paradox is explained by the low depreciation on new or nearly-new cars in an under-supplied market. New cars are very hard to get, as the supply is restricted by import controls; but even with list prices ranging from one-quarter to one-third above full tax-paid United Kingdom levels, premiums are often paid on new popular models. Depreciation is very low; a two-year-old car of a popular make may fetch very nearly its new list price on the used car market.

Low-cost motoring therefore depends upon availability of a new car. The very low depreciation, together with the modest cost of registration and insurance, makes motoring in New Zealand, viewed on a 'so-much-per-mile' basis, very cheap indeed. Those who are able to draw on funds held outside of New Zealand can get a special 'non-remittance licence' to import a new car. It is therefore wise to leave some funds available from an overseas source. As the importing of a new car or the transferring of a car already owned by a passenger to New Zealand is complicated by detailed and occasionally changing regulations, a person contemplating coming to this country should make careful inquiries about this whole matter (for example, from any overseas branch of a New Zealand bank).

When all these things have been noted—cost of living, housing, and motoring—there still remain other factors to be taken into account. Is New Zealand healthier than the industrial United Kingdom? Are cheap camping holidays by bush, mountain, or beach an offset to a holiday in Europe? What of the inexpensive educational facilities, the cheap sports available, and the absence of tipping? These and similar factors cannot be weighed up exactly, but they all contribute something to the claim that New Zealand is a good and not particularly expensive country in which to live.

A section of the language laboratory.

Academic Life

FOR THE STAFF MEMBER from overseas, the most familiar aspect of his new environment is likely to be his academic life in the University; the University of Canterbury is in general very similar to the provincial universities of the United Kingdom and the well-established universities of other Commonwealth countries. Administration and organisation of special schools, faculties, and departments follow British patterns and call for no special comment; but the structure of degrees, teaching conditions, research facilities, library resources, and provisions for leave are features which need to be considered in more detail. General comments cannot do justice to every faculty and department, but the documents sent to prospective applicants give more specific information about particular departments.

THE STRUCTURE OF DEGREES

The framework within which most departments operate is the 'unit' system. The three-year B.A. degree, for example, consists of nine units, each representing a year's work in a subject and each formally examined at the end of the academic year. A student must study at least one subject for three years (i.e., Stages I, II, and III counting as three units) and at least one other for two years; apart from these major prerequisites he is allowed considerable freedom of choice in the planning of his degree course. A typical B.A. degree might be made up in the following way:

First Year: English I, French I, History I, Geography I.
Second Year: English II, French II, Education I.
Third Year: English III, History II.

The B.Sc. degree is also a three-year degree but with an eight-unit structure, for example:

First Year: Chemistry I, Physics I, Pure Maths. I, Applied Maths. I.
Second Year: Chemistry II, Pure Maths. II.
Third Year: Chemistry III, Biology I.

The general principle of units and stages applies in most faculties, but there are variations in structure; for example the Bachelor of Engineering degree (Pass or Honours) has a four-year course in which groups of subjects are credited as a whole, rather than as single unit passes. There is a four-year Honours B.Sc., and for this degree—which allows for much greater specialisation and is not based on the unit system—the student enters an Honours School after his first year of study. Following the B.Sc. Honours, a student may proceed to a research degree, either the Ph.D. or the M.Sc.

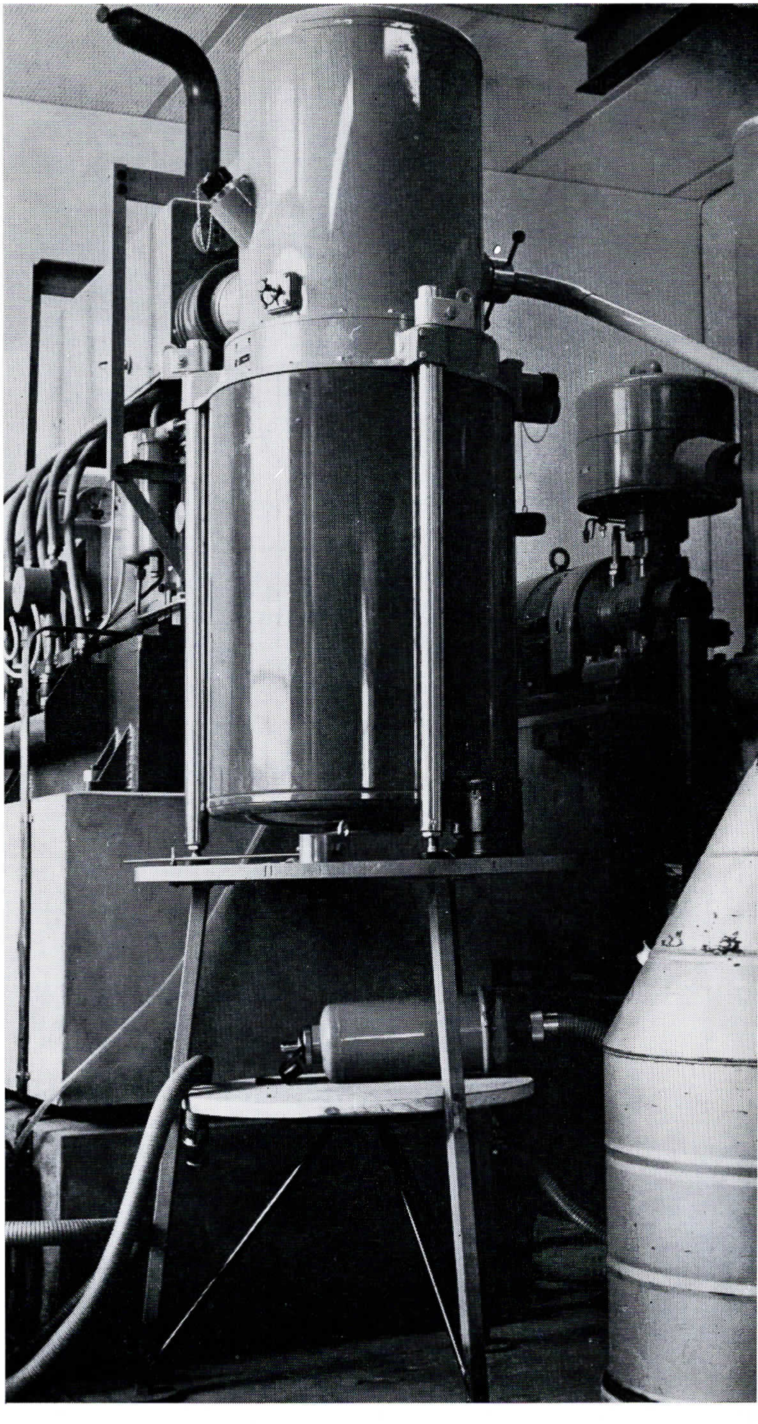
The faculties of Arts and Commerce award both Pass and Honours Master's degrees in which a thesis is usually required as well as papers: the thesis may be given a weighting equivalent to that of the papers, or in some subjects may be replaced by extra papers. In all faculties the number of candidates for higher degrees is increasing greatly, and in the faculty of Science in particular, the increase in the number of candidates for the Ph.D. degree is very rapid indeed. It may be of interest to note that in any department a staff member may work for the Ph.D. degree himself while carrying out his normal teaching duties.

TEACHING CONDITIONS

The academic year usually begins in the last week of February, and the examinations commence towards the end of October. During this period there are three teaching terms of approximately ten, eleven, and six weeks' duration respectively, with breaks of three weeks between each term.

Class sizes, teaching methods, and teaching loads vary widely. Some lecture classes, especially in first-year courses, may be larger than the average British lecturer is accustomed to, since nearly all students are reading several subjects for pass degrees in their first three years. The mass method of the lecture-room, however, is nearly always balanced by the more personal methods of the tutorial system in most Arts departments and by laboratory hours in Science and Engineering.

The teaching load for each staff member is far from standardised, but two representative departments, one in Arts and the



Cryogenics laboratory, Physics Department.

other in Science, require respectively about seven hours a week (including tutorials) and eleven hours (including about eight hours laboratory instruction). Departments, in practice, enjoy considerable freedom in teaching methods and in the devising of prescriptions, and have increasingly used this freedom to give scope to the special interests of their members and to experiment in teaching techniques.

RESEARCH FACILITIES

In common with many other universities in the post-war period, the University of Canterbury felt the frustrations of lack of adequate finance, facilities, and staff time for the full development of research activities. Over the last few years, however, the situation has changed, and while frustrations may not have been completely removed, they have been considerably reduced.

Finance for research is allocated annually by the Government and distributed by the Research Committee of the University Grants Committee and also by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. Grants are made to 'specific persons for specific purposes' by way of research fellowships, assistantships, and funds for the purchase of special equipment or materials. Although there is necessarily some competition for research grants, in a recent year, for example, fifty-one grants, ranging from $460 to $20,000, were made to Canterbury staff. Other sources of support are sometimes available for particular projects, for example the Medical Research Council, the Carnegie Corporation and the national lottery: where research expenses are modest, departmental funds provide a useful supplement.

Engineering and the Physical Sciences have well-equipped laboratories, the available apparatus including a helium cryostat in Physics, a sub-critical reactor housed in the School of Engineering, and equipment for large-scale V.P.C., recording spectrophotometry, and X-ray studies in Chemistry. Staff have access to an I.B.M. 360/44 computer as well as an I.B.M. 1620 computer in the University's Computer Centre.

New Zealand has features of particular interest to students of Biology, Geology, and Geography; and Canterbury is rich in resources for the field scientist: a station at Cass, eighty miles north-west of Christchurch, and not far from the Main Divide of the Southern Alps, provides convenient access to some of this material. Biologists and Geologists, with their students, make year-round use of this station for a wide variety of purposes—for example, studies of high and low-level tussock grassland or sub-alpine and alpine plant communities; also structural, glacial, and geomorphic studies. Other examples of field projects are: the Physics Department's research stations at Rolleston and Birdlings Flat, the Zoology Department's marine laboratory on the Kaikoura peninsula, the Antarctic Biological Research Unit at McMurdo Sound and the Geology Department's field

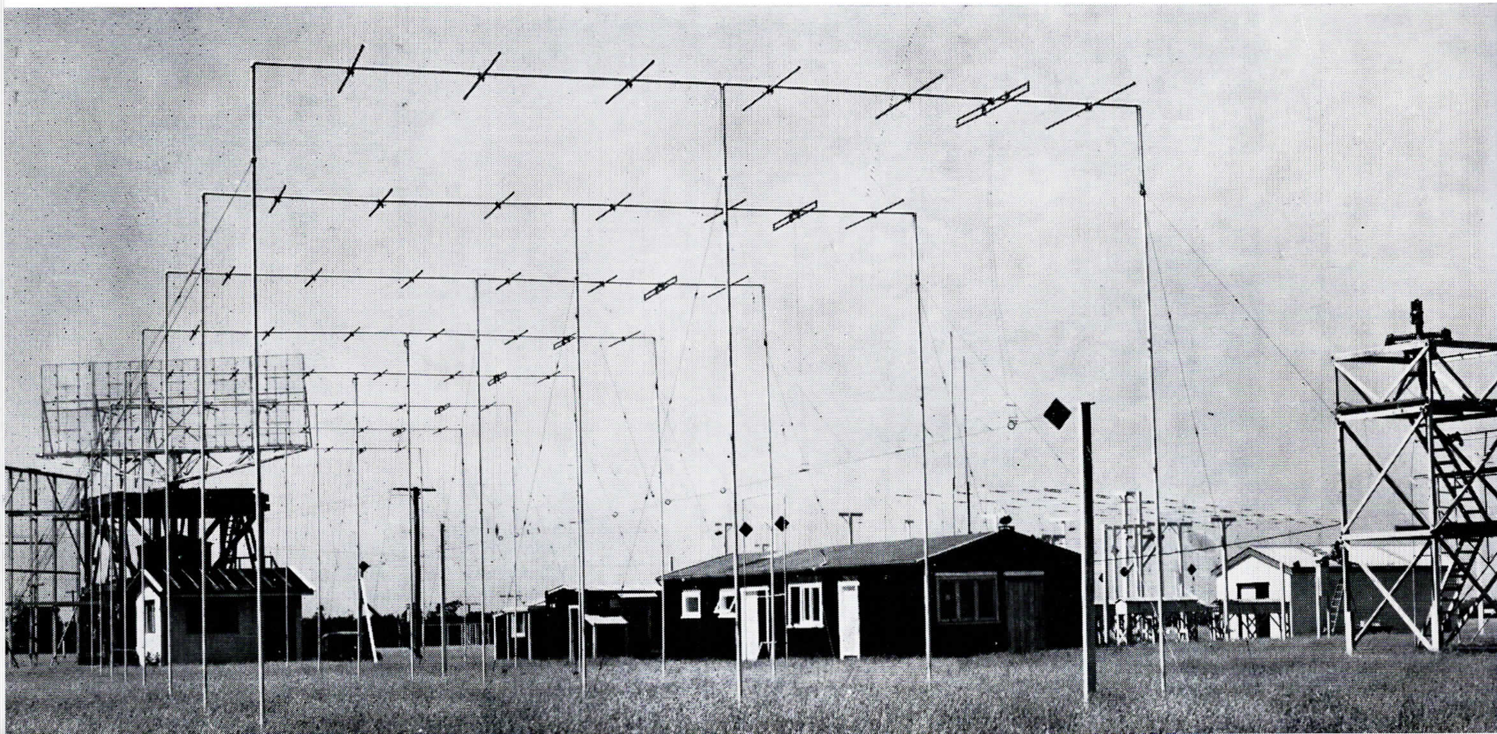
Field station at Cass

station at Westport. In conjunction with the University of Pennsylvania, the University also operates the Mt. John Astronomical Observatory at Tekapo.

The Physics station has facilities and equipment for research in geophysics, with particular emphasis on the earth's upper atmosphere; and the marine laboratory is uniquely situated for the study of a fauna which includes organisms belonging to the life of both warm and cold water shores. The Antarctic Research Unit at Cape Royds in McMurdo Sound—currently being used for the study of seals, penguins, and marine biology—has all-year-round laboratory facilities which are being used for both teaching and research purposes. A five-year study of the Sub-Antarctic Snares Islands has also started.

Faculties and departments have varied in the vigour and extent of their research activities, but research schools are gradually taking shape, particularly in the sciences; and with the increasing number of post-graduate students and the more liberal staffing of departments such schools will extend and strengthen in the future. In the social sciences, the range of resources and research problems is considerable. Proximity to S.E. Asia; rapidly developing satellite towns; social, economic, and political implications of developments in industrial structure—these make New Zealand a particularly stimulating environment for the social scientist.

Geophysics field station at Rolleston

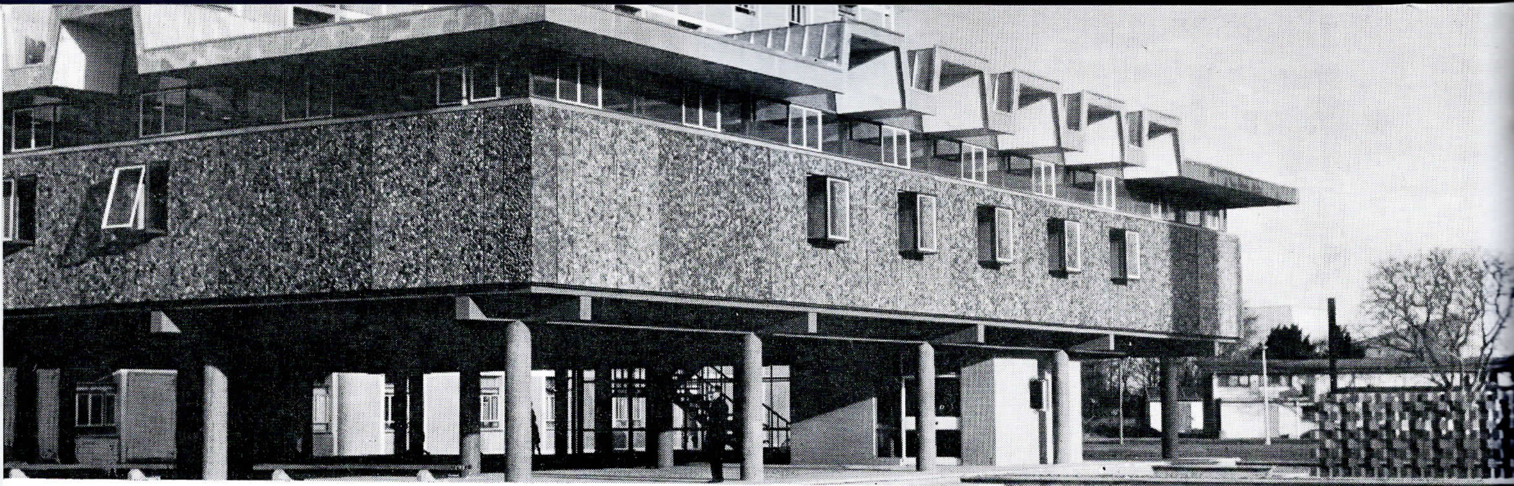


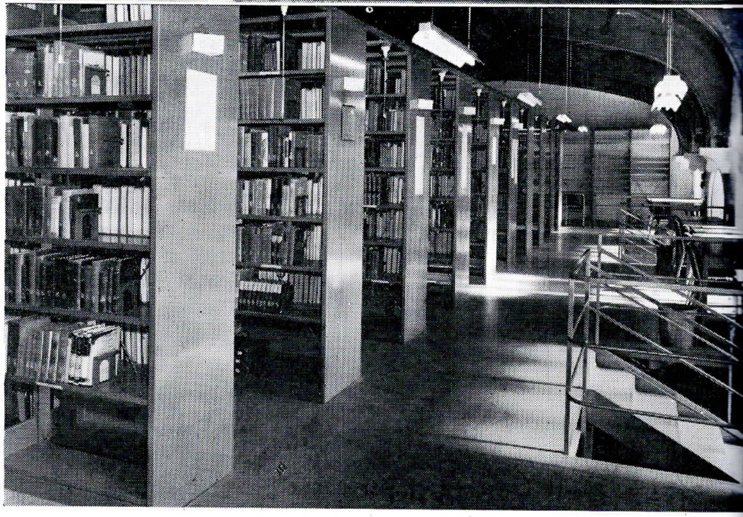
A university camp at Cape Crozier, Antarctica

On the reef near the marine laboratory at Kaikoura

Research in the Arts has depended more upon the particular interests and enthusiasms of individual staff members and the availability of the necessary source materials. There have been some notable contributions, even although it is true that some scholars have been discouraged in the past because of difficulties such as distance from the great overseas libraries. It is fair to say that many of these difficulties have now been overcome (for example, by the use of microfilm) and that there has been a steady increase in publication in the Arts, particularly since the Second World War.

University staff have had a marked influence on literature, music, and the fine arts in New Zealand and have contributed some noteworthy studies on local and national problems. Two studies which may be of general interest to any prospective applicant are: W. H. Oliver's *Story of New Zealand* (Faber and Faber, 1960) and C. Weststrate's *Portrait of a Modern Mixed Economy* (New Zealand University Press, 1959). As far as publication is concerned, apart from the usual avenues including learned journals in New Zealand and overseas, there is a University Publications Committee which invites staff members to submit manuscripts and, where appropriate, publishes them under the imprint of the University of Canterbury. Funds are sometimes available for particular types of publications, for example from the State Literary Fund or the Council for Educational Research.





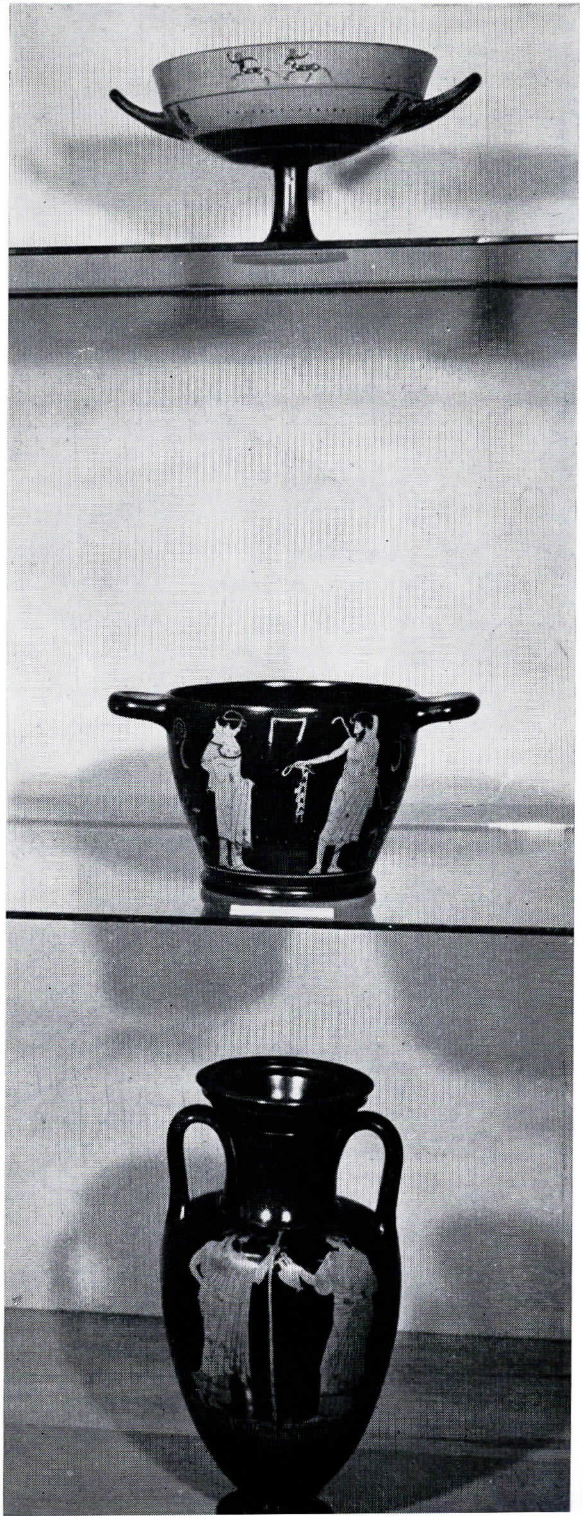
The new Sciences Library at Ilam (above); *a corner of the central Library on the city site* (right).

LIBRARY FACILITIES

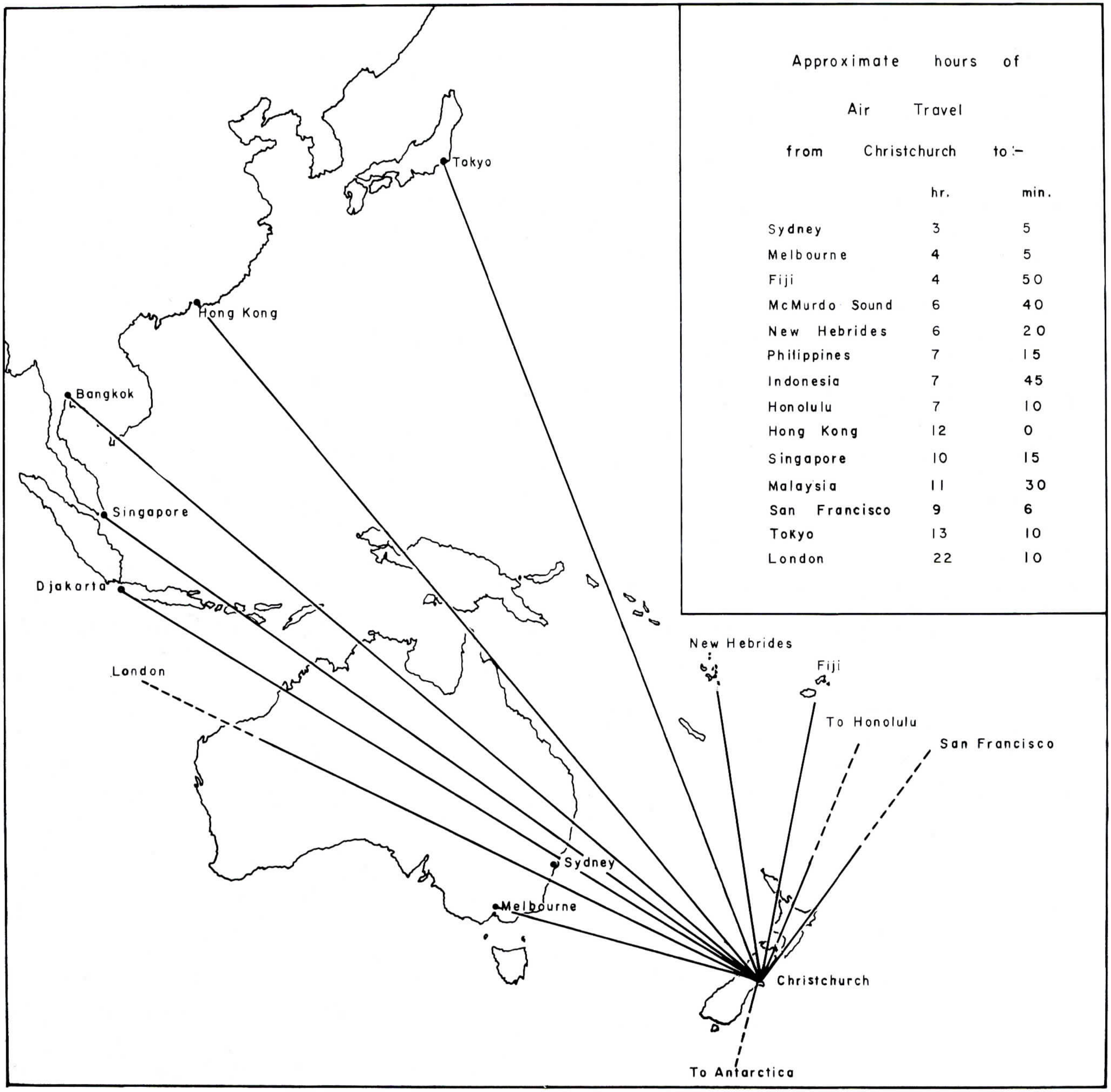
The university libraries of New Zealand have between them a fair range of materials, although they have not, of course, built up great collections comparable with those in the libraries of the older universities. Although each library is independent and able to specialise, there is a well-developed system of co-operation between university, public, and other libraries through an inter-library lending scheme. This is based on a union catalogue, which now records nearly all publicly owned non-fiction books, and a published union list of the journals held in New Zealand libraries.

The University of Canterbury Library has been expanding rapidly, especially in recent years, and the present total of 200,000 volumes and over 3500 journals is likely to increase considerably as this rapid expansion continues. Apart from the main library, there are branch libraries in the School of Engineering and Faculty of Science at Ilam, a small collection in the School of Fine Arts, the library of the Canterbury Branch of the Royal Society of New Zealand, and the Macmillan Brown Collection. The Macmillan Brown Collection, which was bequeathed to the University in 1935 by one of its foundation professors, comprised originally some 15,000 books, journals, and pamphlets with special emphasis on anthropology, ethnology, and the Pacific area. Of recent years, its New Zealand section has been greatly strengthened, and this collection provides a unique contribution to the library resources of New Zealand.

As well as improvements in the range of books and journals available, there have been great improvements in the provision of more adequate shelf and reading space, and in various ancillary services, e.g., facilities for the making and reading of microfilm, for various photocopying processes, and for reference and bibliographic assistance. While facilities on the central site are being extended, planning for the Ilam site is well under way. The new library will be the biggest building in the city.



Greek pottery on the shelves of the Logie Collection



Approximate hours of Air Travel from Christchurch to:-

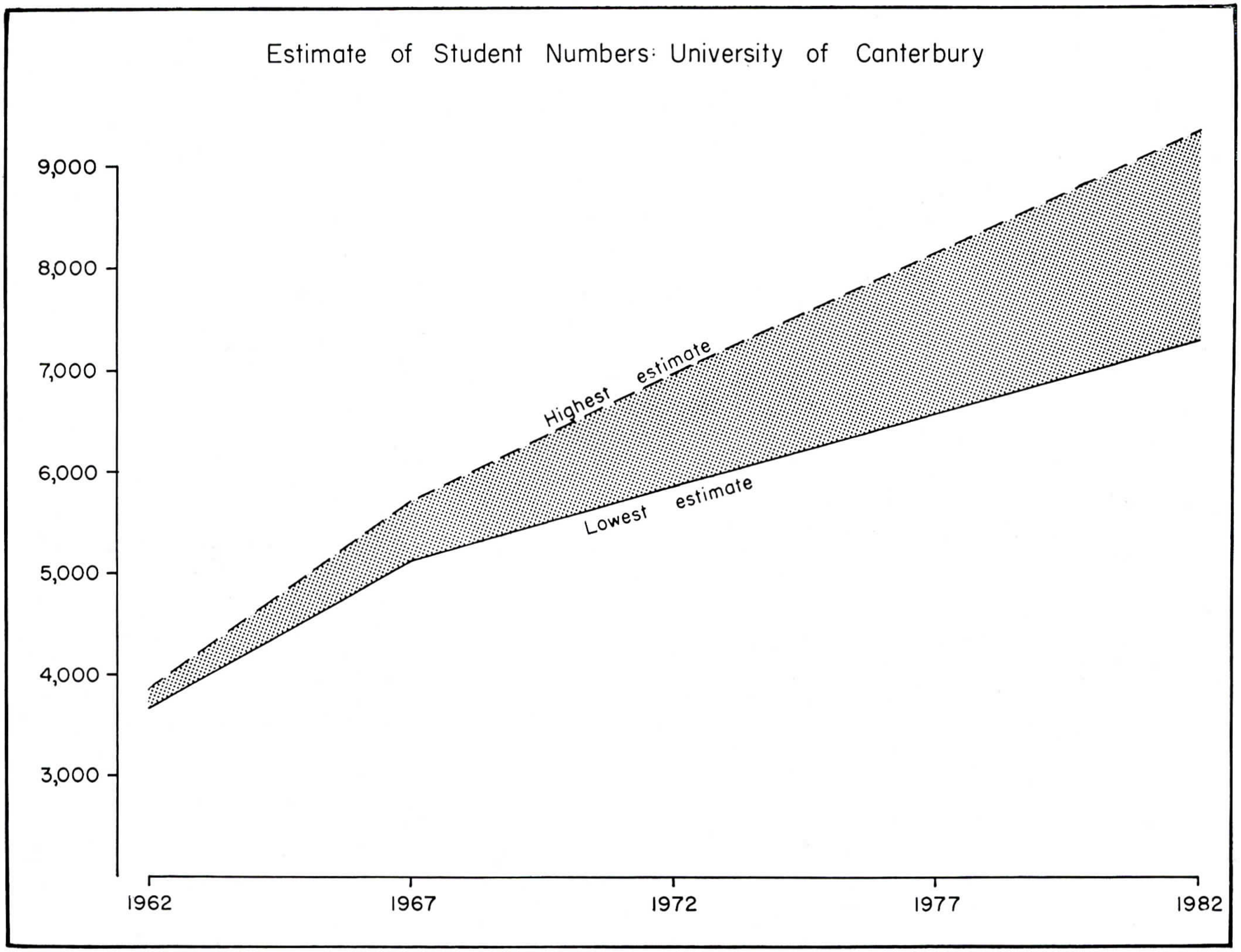
	hr.	min.
Sydney	3	5
Melbourne	4	5
Fiji	4	50
McMurdo Sound	6	40
New Hebrides	6	20
Philippines	7	15
Indonesia	7	45
Honolulu	7	10
Hong Kong	12	0
Singapore	10	15
Malaysia	11	30
San Francisco	9	6
Tokyo	13	10
London	22	10

PROVISIONS FOR LEAVE

Distance from source materials was at one time a considerable handicap for scholars in New Zealand, but air travel has brought the major universities of Australia within two or three hours of Christchurch, and those of the United States and Britain within one or two days. Overseas travel and study are made possible by the financial assistance given in 'refresher leave', which members of staff may apply for (although it is not granted automatically) after having completed a reasonable period of service. Such leave is usually for a period of up to one year, depending upon the nature of the work undertaken overseas. During this period full salary is paid, along with a grant of up to $1800 for maintenance and a sum of up to $800 to cover the cost of travel for the staff member to and from the country concerned.

The University Council in the past has always looked sympathetically on applications for leave and assistance to attend international conferences, and many scientists and engineers in particular have gone abroad for this purpose at least once between successive refresher leaves. A valuable supplementary source of income for the interchange of scholars has been provided by the Erskine bequest of approximately $400,000, which is used specifically for sending Canterbury staff members on overseas leave and for bringing distinguished overseas visitors to this University.

In this vital period of university expansion the pattern of academic life could change, but the broad outline given above should provide the prospective staff member with some basis for making his own comparisons and drawing his own conclusions.



Estimate of Student Numbers: University of Canterbury

By the end of the century New Zealand's population is likely to be more than double its present size. The universities have entered upon a period of rapid expansion, and the Government of the day recognised the need for long-term university planning when in 1959 it set up a Committee under the chairmanship of Sir David Hughes Parry. The Committee's report: Report of the Committee on New Zealand Universities *(Wellington, Government Printer, 1959)—in which both the weaknesses and strengths of university education in this country are frankly discussed and clearly documented—has formed the basis of Government action, and many of the recommendations are still being implemented.*

Within this atmosphere of rapid development and of optimism for the future of the University, the new staff member at Canterbury is likely to find that any disadvantages which may arise from New Zealand's location or size should be outweighed by the satisfactions of meeting what the Parry Committee referred to as 'the exciting challenge of serving this growing community in the years ahead'.

FURTHER INFORMATION: Copies of a short colour film about the University and its setting are available. Inquiries should be addressed to the Registrar, University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand, or to the Secretary, the Association of Commonwealth Universities, 36 Gordon Square, London W.C.1, or to major overseas offices of the New Zealand Government. The current addresses are listed in the statistical sampler in the back of this brochure.

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